



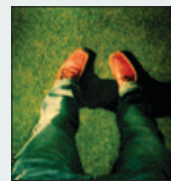
Travel tips to
keep your
week golden.

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A great wall
of art.

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Hundreds suffer lead poisoning in Gansu

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China Open serves up stars



Number one seed Ivan Ljubicic in action at the China Open yesterday. International stars from the tennis circuit gathered at the Beijing Tennis Center for the tournament, which runs from September 9 to 24.

Photo by Tong Wei

A billion bees to fight tree-eating bugs

By Chen Shasha

City officials have brought more than a billion bees to Beijing in an attempt to control an outbreak of fall webworm, and communities in Beijing's Panjiayuan area have this week been asked to look out for the moth larvae that can strip trees bare in just days.

Posters have asked residents to contact their community office if

they find fall webworm (*hyphantria cunea*), the leaf-eating larvae of a species of white moth.

Some 20,000 fall webworm, a serious pest native to North America, have been found in central parts of Beijing over the summer. The larvae are hard to kill, and can survive for 10 days without food, whilst at the imago stage the insect can go for months without food or water.

Beijing's government has long been taking measures to prevent the spread of fall webworm. However, the SARS crisis in 2003 led to work on this stopping in many villages in rural parts of the municipality, giving the moths a chance to multiply.

Wu Jian, of the State Forestry Administration (SFA), said Beijing's 'Green Olympics' might turn

brown if the pest is not effectively controlled. As well as bringing in the bees, other anti-moth measures include aerial pesticide spraying, insecticide lamps and the use of an American white moth virus.

"Even after taking all of these measures, 30 to 40 percent of the moths will likely survive," said Professor Li Zhenyu, of Beijing Forestry University.

Happy hour @ Pavillion
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TV quest to find China's best cox

By Han Manman

CCTV will hope to follow in the footsteps of *Survivor*, *The Apprentice* and *American Idol* with a reality show to find an Olympic champion.

The show, *China Olympic Coxswain Competition*, aims to find one woman and one man to cox China's national rowing teams.

Viewers will help to whittle down the thousands of entrants in

a series of televised tests. The two winners will take part in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

"This is the first time in Olympic history that new members of an Olympic team are being scouted for from the general public in such a broad and open manner," said Liu Aijie, vice president of the Chinese Water Sports Administration.

The entire population will be able to have their say on who will

be the potential cox. Liu said the position doesn't require brawn, speed or years of training - anyone between the age of 16 and 60 can enter as long as they have a healthy set of lungs and a good sense of direction.

"This is the only sport in the Olympics in which such a competition could be held," said Liu. "The cox position is unique because you don't need great physical strength, just mental

strength." Liu said CCTV had learnt a lot from shows like *Survivor* on how to sort through the thousands of applicants.

The nationwide search starts this week, with candidates tested for their stamina, leadership skills and their ability to withstand stress.

Star quality is also considered important with karaoke and dance tasks being considered for inclusion in the show.

Confiscated wine funds teacher training

By Jiang Xubo

Hope Charity Sales Center (HCSC) of the China Youth Development Foundation is putting over 30,000 bottles of alcohol, donated last week by the Beijing Capital International Airport (BCIA), on sale to collect money to train teachers for Project Hope.

"We hired adjusters to give prices to these wines and then put them on sale. The money will be used to fund Project Hope teachers across the country to receive fortnight-long training courses, which cost around 3,000 yuan (US\$ 380), to train each teacher in school management, education theory and computer skills in Beijing and Shanghai," said Liu Chunlan, director of the charity sale project from HCSC.

The alcohol, both domestic and foreign brands, including Johnnie Walker, Bacardi, Chivas, Ballantine's, Gordon's and Kweichow Moutai, ranges from fruit wine, to rice wine and Chinese medicated wine.

They cost between 10 yuan (US\$ 1) and 350 yuan (US\$ 44) and are on sale on the Internet and the center's assigned wine shop.

BCIA has collected the disclaimed alcohol in the last two years from travelers, who were unaware of the curb on carrying alcohol and werereluctant to check them in.

The center has established a parcels room in cooperation with the airport in the year 2004, storing wines put under the airport's custody and receiving donated wines.

The airport had to destroy these wines until the launch of this charity project two years ago.

The General Administration of Civil Aviation of China has banned carrying alcohol since February in 2003. Travelers who insist on carrying alcohol (no more than two bottles and less than one kilogram) have to check it in along with their luggage.

Sunshine safari for special needs kids



Special needs children enjoy a day out at Badaling Safari World. Bless them.

CFP Photo

Recruitment drive for volunteers

By Han Manman

A recruitment drive is under way to sign up nearly 20 to 35-year-olds to volunteer in Ethiopia and Laos.

The China Communist Youth League (CCYL) and Chinese Young Volunteers Association (CYVA) started the recruitment drive this month.

Selected volunteers will fly out in October to spend 11 months teaching Chinese and sports, as well as promoting traditional Chinese medicines and computer technologies.

The volunteer program in Ethio-

pia and Laos is a part of the China's foreign assistance program. CCYL and CYVA are planning to recruit 150 to 200 volunteers around China. This year's foreign assistance project will be implemented in two phases, with the first set of around 100 volunteers being sent to Laos and Ethiopia.

The second phase of the recruitment, which will begin shortly, will aim to sign up Chinese volunteers to work in Latin American and other African and Asian countries. Applicants must have a college education, a

clean record and be in good health.

The Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China, which initiated the program to dispatch young volunteers, said 109 young Chinese volunteers have been sent abroad since 2002 to Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Ethiopia to teach Chinese, sports, computer skills, and provide services in medical and health care, as well as instruction in international rescue efforts.

For more information, go to www.bjyouth.gov.cn.

Fat people have it large

By Jackie Zhang

Hundreds of people will 'large it up' in Badachu Park in October - at the biggest party for overweight people ever held in Beijing.

Fatties from across the capital are expected to flock to the event, amusingly titled 'The Overweight Charming Show', which will run throughout the Golden Week national holiday.

The tubsters will take part in three competitions, including a talent show, fashion show and mountain

climbing contest.

Organizers, who say that around 9,000 Chinese are now clinically obese, are putting on the event to try to boost their confidence. They are also hoping to get enough people together to set up an association for the fat.

"Throughout the seven day event, these fat people will have a chance to demonstrate that they are also talented, even if they are over weight," said Zhao Ying, one of the organizers.

He added that 50 participants would be selected from both this year and next year's show to be volunteers at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

"We have discussed this with the Beijing Organizing Committee of the XXIX Olympiad and they agreed to accept this group of 50 fatties as volunteers at the Games," Zhao said.

It is the first time such an event has been held in Beijing.

For more information or to register, call 6863 6985 or 6868 7736.

Later last trains on Line 13

By Huang Daohen

Trains on subway line number 13 will now run for up to an extra hour and a quarter every night.

The departure time for the last train that runs the full length of the line will be pushed back from 9.30pm to 10.42pm.

For the last train that runs half

the line, the departure time will be pushed back from 10.30pm to 11.45pm.

The changes, which came into force on Saturday, were announced by the Beijing Subway Operation Company (BSOC) this week.

They will be followed up by other alterations to improve service on the

line. Capacity will soon be increased by 25% with an increase in trains from the current 287 to 334 and a shortening in waiting times between trains from five minutes during the rush hour to four minutes.

Public buses will soon be improved along similar lines, the BSOC announced.

Hackers take out China Mobile net portal

By Gan Tian

The website of China Mobile's youth brand M-zone was hacked on Monday morning. The site was replaced by a black page with a single line of red characters calling for cheaper phone fees.

The altered webpage stayed up for some two hours, beginning around 8am. The page included a signature, 'Hacked by [935fa12ec828a3f3]'.

The M-zone package sees call charges of 2.5 yuan per minute in peak hours, falling to 1.5 yuan per minute from 11pm to 7am, plus a fixed monthly fee of 20 yuan, which includes 300 text messages. China Mobile has cut prices several times since launching M-zone, but many users still complain of being over-charged by a virtual monopoly.

M-zone targets the youth market, often associated in advertising with rebellion, independence and individualism. Many customers are college students with good computer skills. Hacking is just an extension of that ethos said one user of the M-zone site, Lu Xiaoyan. "That's M-zone's spirit, but this hack shows that M-zone has ended up making a rod for its own back."

M-zone has no plans at present to change its charges. Gao Songge, vice president of China Mobile's general department said he was not aware of the hacking incident.

Scholarships for EU students

By Han Manman

Beginning next year, the Chinese government will provide 100 scholarships annually to young students from European Union member states, according to a joint statement released after the Ninth EU-China summit last Saturday in Helsinki, Finland.

The statement said China would inaugurate a five-year Chinese Government Scholarship Program, providing 100 scholarships each year in a bid to provide more opportunities for European students to study Chinese.

The Chinese side expressed interest in concluding a EU-China Education Cooperation and Exchanges Agreement at a future date. Officials at the summit also endorsed cooperation in establishing a EU-China Law School. The two sides will continue to consult on this matter with a view to reaching agreement at an early date.

The number of foreigners learning Chinese around the world is expected to hit 100 million in 2010, and four million teachers of Chinese as a second language are needed, according to the National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language.

Computers to banish sentencing anomalies

By Jiang Xubo

Judges across Shandong Province will be able to turn to computers to help in making sentencing decisions, as the provincial judicial authority plans to extend the use of a sentencing software system province-wide.

The software can calculate the appropriate prison sentence for the 100 most commonly occurring crimes, based on the detailed circumstances of a case, including mitigating factors, according to officials at the local

court in Zichuan District, Shandong Province, where the software was developed.

"It's not an electronic judge, it just establishes standard patterns for sentences," said Wang Hongmei, chief judge of the Zichuan criminal court. "It doesn't mean an end to judicial discretion. Our aim is to establish a pattern for criminal sentencing to avoid different penalties being handed down for the same crime."

The court claims that it currently uses the system in almost

all criminal cases. In the more than 2,000 cases since its introduction some years ago where the software has been used to help determine sentence, no objection has ever been filed.

"The introduction of this kind of software into court proceedings may reduce judicial unfairness, because machines are less likely to be influenced than humans," said Pro Zhang Baosheng, from the China University of Political Science and Law.

But many law experts have

questioned the system's validity. "Every case differs, so the setting of penalties needs to be flexible. And judges need to exercise their discretion, because that's the only way to make sure that punishments fit crimes," said Liu Hongyu, partner of Beijing-based Jincheng & Tongda Law Firm.

The Zichuan People's Court has been developing the software system since 2003, in cooperation with a Beijing-based IT company, based on detailed sentencing guidelines.

Government, business and NGOs ally against AIDS

By Jiang Xubo

A new non-profit organization to address AIDS and tuberculosis (TB), the China Health Alliance (CHA), was launched this week.

The CHA will bring together government, companies, international organizations and NGOs to co-ordinate programs across the country to educate, test, treat and support workers, especially migrant workers, at risk from TB and HIV/AIDS.

"Migrant workers are the toughest to reach with policies and programs. And business is ideally placed to reach out to them," said Francesca Boldrini, director of the Global Health Initiative, which has been responsible for forming the CHA.

"HIV makes it easier for sufferers to get TB. For this reason, in some countries TB is the cause of death for up to a third of people living with HIV or AIDS, so we have to address these two diseases together," she added.

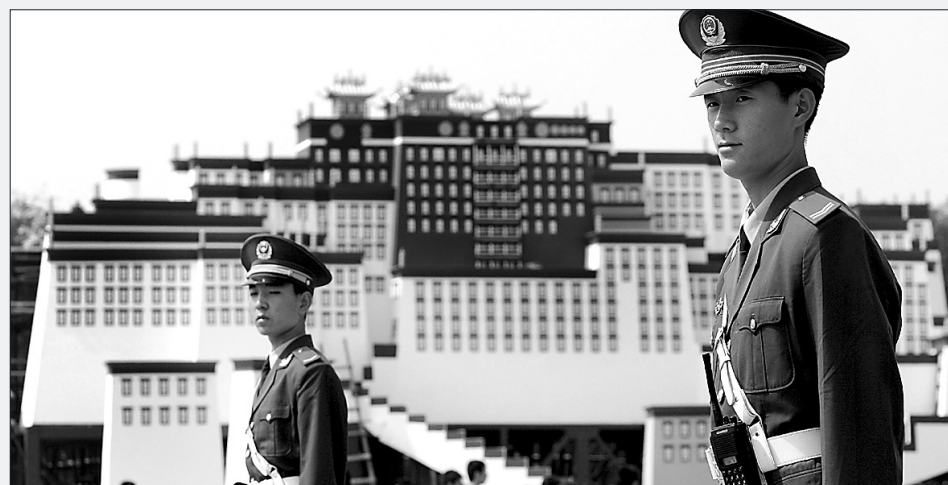
The initial 15 alliance companies, including Accenture, Pfizer, Becton, and Swire Beverages (SB), cover consultancies, pharmaceutical manufacturers and medical technology businesses.

The companies are expected to adopt policies of non-discrimination against HIV/AIDS and TB in their factories, and to promote awareness of the diseases among their employees and communities. They could also contribute funds to the alliance's business plans.

"If we start small and work with our suppliers and distributors, we can make more people aware of the diseases. It is not about making money, companies are a part of the community," said Stewart Stemple, General Manager of SB.

It is estimated that last year, 650,000 people in China were living with HIV. Of those cases, around 70,000 were new infections, said Wu Zunyou, director of the country's Center for Venereal Disease and AIDS Prevention and Control.

Heart of Lhasa in the heart of Beijing



A replica of the Potala Palace stands in Tiananmen Square, as part of this week's National Day festivities.

IC Photo

Awards for best research on gay issues

By Chen Shasha

The Chi Heng Foundation, a Hong Kong-based non-governmental organization, is offering China's first national awards for the best student research on issues related to homosexuality.

Awards were first presented last year to students from Fudan University, and this year the scheme is going nationwide, says Du Cong of Chi Heng. The aim is to raise awareness of gay issues. Du is concerned that a lack of research at other institutions may narrow the field for possible award-winning papers though. "Many professors in China have been of the opinion that research on homosexuality has little academic value," Du said.

In 2003, Chi Heng funded China's first university elective

course on gay issues at Fudan University. The course proved popular, with sometimes more than 200 students crowding into lectures designed for half that number. As well as hearing from academics, students listened to talks from gay people and members of their families.

Du says ignorance and prejudice have made it difficult for gay voices to be heard in the past. It had been easy to give the students academic case studies but not to let them hear from gay people themselves. This year will see the first lesbian speakers address the Fudan class.

One student, Liu Jian, said most of the class knew little about gay issues before taking the course, but now had revised their views on the morality and

naturalness of homosexuality. Du Cong says this is important, because, "These students may well go on to take leading roles in our future society, and their attitudes to gay people will be influential."

The social science departments at the capital's top universities, Tsinghua and Beijing University, have yet to offer similar courses for their students. "Any future course would depend on whether any of our professors do research on the topic," said Tong Xin, deputy head of social science at Beijing University.

China is estimated to be home to some 20 to 30 million gay and lesbian people, but there are no more than 30 researchers in the country specializing in gay issues.

New tour offers chance to see pandas in the wild

By Chen Shasha

A new tour route has opened at the Wolong National Natural Reserve in Sichuan province, the first time that visitors have been able to watch pandas living in their natural habitat at the world famous reserve.

Luo Aming, of the Wolong tourist bureau, said the area that the tours will visit was closed to the public prior to 1994, and has been opened up in stages since. There are now 118 human-reared and 145 wild pandas in the area. Core habitat zones where

wild panda groups live remain closed.

"It is important to find ways to let humans and animals interact harmoniously," Luo said, "Because it can help with the return of human-reared pandas to the wild."

Three-day tours will now include a visit to valleys that are home to wild panda populations. Tian Hua, who is in charge of the project, says visitors will be expected to learn more about China's national animal at a panda museum and

the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda before going out into the reserve.

Visitors will also have to sign a contract promising not to harm any pandas or drop litter. Guides from the Conservation and Research Center will lead visitors along panda trails, then climb Balang Mountain, which stands on the edge of the virgin forest. Here they can use new wireless link-ups to observe wild pandas.

More information can be found at www.jowong.com.

Audit finds budget problems

By Huang Daoheng

China National Audit Office (CNAO) found budgeting implementation problems in government departments, according to its latest report released on September 11.

The audit, carried out between December 2005 and April 2006, assessed the status and outcome of the use of government fiscal budgets, and made recommendations on ways to address existing problems for better utilization in the future.

The main problems found were an inability for central government investment management to achieve smooth transitions from one year's investment plan to the next; excessive detail in the investment plans of some local projects; and overlapping expenditure items and inappropriate financing arrangements for some special investments.

The audit also found insufficient regulation of the implementation of special budget funds. Some failed to report increases in idle funds and allowed surplus funds to be used for purposes other than what they were allocated for.

Brief news

Higher trade value

China's total value of trade from January to August rose to over US\$ 1,100 billion, up some 24 percent on that of the same period of last year, according to the latest figures from the General Administration of Customs.

More savings for housing

In the third quarter of this year, more than 10 percent of Beijing residents deposited money towards the cost of buying or decorating their house, up 0.7 percent on that of last quarter, according to a nationwide survey launched last month by the central bank.

Forest fires

More than 7,000 forest fires occurred in the first eight months of this year, leaving 33 people dead, 73 injured and 380,000 hectares of forest damaged, Jia Zhibang, head of the State Forestry Administration said this week.

Disasters lose billions for farmers

Natural disasters and insect pests cost the country's agriculture sector nearly 100 billion yuan (US\$12.5 billion) in the first eight months of this year, according to Fan Xiaojian, Vice Minister of Agriculture.

Public health emergencies

Last month saw some 280 cases of public health emergencies around the country, affecting more than 4,000 people and leading to over 200 deaths, the Ministry of Health announced this week.

Accidental deaths

A total of some 110 accidents, mainly traffic accidents and drowning, have killed some 120 students across the country up to early this month, and left over 1,200 injured, according to the Ministry of Education.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Hundreds suffer lead poisoning in Gansu



Tests show that children are suffering from lead poisoning.

CFP Photo

By Qiu Jiaoning

Up to 2,000 people living near Hui County Non-Ferrous Metal Smelting Plant in Gansu Province could be affected by a severe lead poisoning accident at the plant, according to an announcement by the local health bureau. Between August 16 and September 7, 368 people from the villages of Xinsi and Moba in Hui County, including 149 children under 14, tested positive for lead poisoning.

The State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) announced on Wednesday that 400 meters of soil around the plant has been completely polluted as the plant has never

met environmental requirements since it was set up in 1996. The plant has been shut down and is being dismantled.

Lead poisoning has a number of negative impacts including severe damage to nervous and reproductive systems, especially impacting children's mental development, normal growth and immune systems, according to Sun Xin from Xijing Hospital, where the victims' blood was tested. In severe cases, it can lead to convulsions, coma and death.

The cause of the lead poisoning is the substandard pollution control equipment at the Hui County Non-Ferrous Metal

Smelting Plant. The SEPA investigators found a shoddy waste disposal system at the plant that did not meet national standards. "The company has been using a sintering pot to produce lead products, which is illegal," said Yang Hua, an official from the Environmental Protection Bureau of Gansu province.

Pan Jiyong, a former worker at the factory, said that the pollution control equipment was only operated during environmental inspections.

The State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) has begun to set a specific standard for evaluating the impact of lead pollution on human health.

Health experts are now carrying out a general check among all residents in Xinsi and Muba villages. The new standard will be based on inspection results by a team of investigators dispatched by SEPA.

Mining and smelting of lead and zinc ores are the major source of lead pollution, which also exists in some areas in Liaoning, Hubei, Guizhou and Anhui provinces, according to Xinhua.

A survey by the World Health Organization showed that 10.45 percent of the 17,000 children aged below six years of age in 15 Chinese cities were found being lead-poisoned to various degrees in 2004.

Keep leaders out of ads, officials warn

By Chu Meng

An item called 'the leader meal' on the menu of a famous Xi'an Restaurant in Xicheng district has been attracting customers for months. But if you haven't tried it yet, you never will from this week, because on Monday national watchdogs ruled it illegal to use the words and images of Chinese leaders for commercial purposes.

The State Administration for Industry and Commerce issued a notice to operators of shopping malls, stores and restaurants, asking for all advertisements bearing the words or images of officials to be taken down. National watchdogs also said they would carry out inspections on illegal advertisements in restaurants and stores.

Misleading

The restaurant owner Cindy Qi explained that this 'leader meal' of six traditional Chinese dishes, including sour and spicy cucumber, stir-fried Xi'an vegetables, roast chopped fish, and stewed beef, costs 120 yuan. "The idea came from years ago when one of China's leaders had a meal in the restaurant, and ordered the six dishes," Qi said.

The administration said the ads could mislead customers. Advertising laws state such ads are illegal. However, many shops and restaurants incorporate the country's leaders into advertising promotions.

Lubolang Restaurant, a popular dining spot in Yuyuan Garden, has already taken pictures off the wall, said its spokeswoman Tang Zhenyi yesterday. "We got the notice the day before yesterday, and took off three photos that violated the regulations," said Tang.

Confusion

However, confusion still remains among some store managers. Well-known silk merchants the Silk King has taken off some leaders' pictures from its nine outlets in the city. But its spokesman said they were not sure if the crackdown included photos of retired officials, or spouses of officials, or official from other countries.

Similar complaints can be heard from many traditional brand names, with hundreds of years of history. The general manager Shen Fang from Quanjude Peking Duck Company's Qian Men branch said "I am totally confused. Quanjude is a famous traditional brand of China, which was established in 1864, the third year of Tongzhi of Qing dynasty. Countless top state leaders and foreign senior officials have dined in our restaurant. And many treasured photos were taken in order to preserve important moments of history. I do not know whether or not these photos have to be taken down as well."

Foreign officials?

Ban Wei, an official with the Beijing Industrial and Commercial Administrative Bureau said, "Shops and restaurants shall not use any leaders - either those still in office or retired - for commercial promotion." He added that using the words and images of leaders' spouses and foreign officials were acceptable.

The dry capital: are Beijing's days numbered?

By Tom Mackenzie/Gareth George

Beijing, one of the driest cities on the planet, played host to the world's biggest gathering of water experts this week, the World Water Congress.

Nearly 3,000 scholars and government officials from hundreds of countries gathered in the capital to discuss one of the globe's most pressing problems - a lack of water.

And as the great and the good put their heads together, stark warnings about the water shortage facing Beijing were sounded.

Lacking clean water

Yu Kongjian, an outspoken environment campaigner and professor of landscape design at Beijing University, said, "Water is the number one problem facing China at the moment. If things keep going as they are, in about 20 years China will have to move its capital from Beijing because of

the lack of clean water - it's simply that serious."

According to statistics released by Beijing's Water Bureau, per capita water resources for China's 1.3 billion people are less than a third of the global average. Around 90 percent of underground water supplies in Beijing are contaminated. To make matters worse, the city's water table is dropping at a rate of one meter every year and the capital gets on average just 400ml of rainfall a year while 1,700ml is evaporated from its parks, lakes and rivers.

"The fact is, fresh water is in decline everywhere due to watershed erosion, over-damming, under conserving and antiquated technology," said Peter Droege, noted academic and author of *Intelligent Environments* and *The Renewable City*. "But Beijing and China have other concerns - every local government

here is working autonomously."

And China is still heavily reliant on fossil and nuclear fuel. According to Droege, one standard 500MW coal power plant uses as much water as 250,000 people.

Middle classes

China's emerging middle classes are changing the water landscape too. In 1994, Beijing had three 18-hole golf courses. Ten years later they had nearly 40. And each golf course needs 3,000 cubic meters of water a day - as much as 15,000 people.

The water conference will address many of these issues, but Peter Droege sees potential solutions already underway in some parts of Asia. "Water sensitive urban design is important," he says, "In Singapore they are turning Marina Bay into a fresh water reservoir, and are already bottling recycled household waste water." The Chinese government is taking

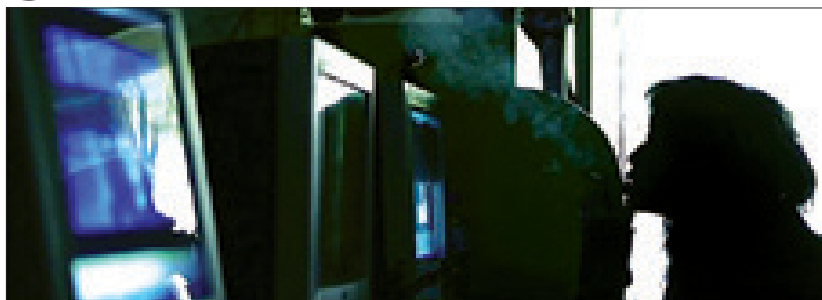
this seriously too. In August, Qiu Baoxing, the Vice-Minister of Construction and the man in charge of the huge investment program, said, "I can clearly tell you, our country's water situation is deteriorating overall. We are standing at a crossroads."

Gray clouds

Beijing residents are required to put water-saving devices on taps, toilets and showers by the end of this year. The city has also raised charges on tap water in a bid to cut consumption and residents are being urged to use recycled water for plants and washing cars. Wasting water is now a criminal offence incurring a fine of up to 10,000 yuan. The government plans to spend around US\$120 billion over five years on sewage and water treatment facilities.

So maybe there are gray clouds on the horizon - in this case, a good thing.

Crack down on Internet gun traffickers



Police have arrested 41 people for trafficking firearms on the Internet, amid a nationwide crackdown involving the confiscation of more than 100,000 illegal guns. **AFP Photo**

Beijing, September 7 (AFP/ INQ7.net) – Chinese police have arrested 41 people for trafficking firearms on the Internet, amid a nationwide crackdown involving the confiscation of more than 100,000 illegal guns, state press has said.

In the first case of online gun trading to surface in China, Beijing police have arrested three sellers and 38 potential buyers who agreed to purchase and pay for the arms through the Internet, according to press reports.

A total of 117 guns were confiscated, mostly foreign-made air guns, or arms

that use compressed air cartridges to fire projectiles, it said. More than half of the guns were deemed to be lethal.

More than 20,000 bullets or air gun pellets were also confiscated, it added.

As of August 30, police had seized 1,648 tons of explosives, 3.84 million detonators, 105,000 guns and 2.3 million bullets, the report, citing the Ministry of Public Security, said.

Firearms are outlawed in China, but a booming economy has led to a growing trade in illegal firearms, police officials said at the beginning of the crackdown.

Interview with the editor:

The Internet is used for either good or evil, and everyday we can read stories about how technology is being used for both purposes. Many things have been trafficked with the aid of the Internet, including guns and drugs.

I have read reports about fraudulent websites in China which hijack user identities, online scams, spam and 'phishing', or the use of trojans to obtain sensitive information.

There was also a study from Ciphertrust last year which said 20 percent of the



world's hijacked computers, fraudulent websites and sites with illegal content are to be found in China.

In the Philippines, we also have many crimes related to the Internet, such as illegal intrusion into private networks, and human trafficking. There are also scams and identity theft brought about by fraudulent websites.

— **Leo Magno,**
executive editor,
INQ7.net

23.7 percent uni-students suffering depression in Beijing



College life is not all smiles.

CFP Photo

Shanghai, September 6 (Interfax) – Over 100,000 university students in Beijing are suffering depression, according to the latest statistics.

On Tuesday, Beijing municipal government submitted a draft of a Beijing Mental Health Regulation to the standing committee of the Beijing People's Congress for review. If approved, the regulation would become a legislative measure to curb the surging number of mental illness sufferers in the capital.

A report by Beijing Department of Health found that about 500,000 people in Beijing suffer from depression. University students, with the estimated incident rate of 23.7 percent, are becoming the most vulnerable group.

However, as of the end of 2004, over 70 percent of patients who suffered mental illness had had no medical treatment, bringing substantial public health and order risks.

Doctors working for the department of psychiatry are those with the lowest academic

degrees compared with other doctors.

The current 'Mental Health Law', drafted in 1985, has faced difficulties in meeting the demands of China's fast-developing society.

The current law offers no clear explanation as to whether health service providers should be responsible for mental health issues.

In China, one in every hundred people suffers from schizophrenia, and the incident rates of depression in big cities such as Beijing and Shanghai are as high as eight percent.

Government cash to flow into water projects

Beijing, September 8 (Asia Pulse / Asia Times) – China plans to invest about 40 billion yuan (US\$5 billion) over the next 10 years on drinking-water projects in rural areas, said Minister of Water Resources Wang Shucheng.

The plan will be implemented in two phases, said Wang. Phase one is aimed at providing 160 million rural residents with drinking water in the next five years, while in phase two all Chinese rural residents will be provided with potable water by 2015.

Wang said 312 million Chinese villagers are facing water shortages or have water supplies contaminated by fluorine, arsenic, high levels of salt, or other organic or industrial pollutants.

Wang said China is likely to exceed by far its United Nations Millennium Development Goal, which is to reduce by half the number of people without sustainable access to drinking water by 2015.

Urban water-supply facilities are to be extended to suburban villages, while rural villages are to see the construction of their own water-supply facilities, said the minister.

In areas where water is contaminated by fluorine, arsenic or high levels of salt, special water-treatment and water-supply facilities will be built, said Wang.

Ministry of Water Resources statistics shows that China's per capita water resources are only a quarter of the average world level.

The figures also show that China has built more than three million rural water-supply projects since 1949, benefiting 273 million rural residents. China spent 22.3 billion yuan from 2001 to 2005 to provide 67 million people with safe water supplies.

Interview with the editor:

China's water shortage and pollution problems have been widely reported overseas recently.

I dispatched the story because Mr Wang did the interview before the World Water Congress in Beijing on September 10-14. Secondly, this is the first unveiling of Beijing's policy and investment targeting at providing clean water supply for rural residents.

Personally, I am cautiously optimistic about this new policy.

The major problem lies in how it will be implemented. Many of Beijing's good-willed policies have been got around or dodged by local officials. So what measures will the central government take to ensure the new policy would be carried through?

Hong Kong's water supply mainly comes from Guangdong's Dongjiang River. Hence Hong Kong residents are naturally concerned with the quality of water from Guangdong, and, water safety is becoming a major focus in the media here.

— **Wu Zhong,**
China Editor,
Asia Times Online



Interview with the editor:

I can imagine that Chinese students are facing heavy pressures as they have to look for jobs by themselves, which is becoming tougher.

The other factors behind the pressure, I suppose, include the independence they need to build for themselves as they enter society, a

heavy study workload, adapting to a changing life style, and the culture shock students meet when they come from their home towns to enter a large metropolitan university.

I can remember we had the similar experiences back in Britain 20 years ago when I went to the uni-

versity there. In addition, students also face issues of peer pressure and exposure to drugs and alcohol.

Britain has a national health service, which is free for students, with a comprehensive national medical and psychiatric system available to everyone.

— **Chris Gill,** bureau chief,
Interfax Shanghai

Hollywood movie studios sue Beijing shops over pirated movies



Local residents buy pirated DVDs on a street in Beijing. AP Photo

Beijing, September 14 (AP) – Six US movie studios are suing two Beijing shops accused of selling pirated copies of *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, *The Incredibles*, and

other titles, demanding damages and an apology, their lawyer said.

The suits were filed on behalf of Sony's (SNE) Columbia Pictures Industries; Walt Disney

Co.'s (DIS) Disney Enterprises; Viacom's (VIA) Paramount Pictures; News Corp.'s (NWS) Twentieth Century Fox Film; Time Warner's (TWX) Warner Bros. Entertainment and Universal City Studios, which is part of NBC Universal, which in turn is 80 percent owned by General Electric (GE) and 20 percent by Vivendi, the French media and telecommunications conglomerate.

The studios are demanding compensation of 60,000 yuan (US\$7,500) a title, an end to sales and an apology, Frank Rittman, the lawyer, said.

The Beijing No. 1 and No. 2 Intermediate People's Courts, where Rittman said the lawsuits were filed, referred questions to the Beijing People's High Court. That court didn't respond to a faxed query.

The latest lawsuits come as China is stepping up penalties for piracy by imposing hefty fines and confiscating millions of products during raids.

There was no phone number listed in Beijing for the Shiji Haihong Commerce and Trade, the parent company for the two shops.

Six Chinese companies expected world challengers: S&P's

Beijing, September 13 (Xinhua) – Six companies based in China are listed as Global Challengers by Standard and Poor's.

COSCO Shipping, China International Marine Cont B HKD, Qinghai Salt Lake Potash, China Vanke Co B HKD, Dashang Group and Offshore Oil Engineering are on the list of 300 mid-size companies that are expected to emerge as challengers to the world's leading blue chip companies.

The list is comprised of those publicly traded companies that show the highest growth characteristics along dimensions encompassing intrinsic and extrinsic growth.

The international index provider will publish the list on an annual basis, and will track its performance through annual publications.

The 2006 class of Global Challengers covers 32 countries and 10 sectors.

US\$350 mln fresh QFII investment quotas

Shanghai, September 12 (Reuters) – The State Administration of Foreign Exchange said they had granted fresh quotas to two foreign institutions to invest in the country's securities markets under its Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor program.

A US\$200 million quota was awarded to Morgan Stanley Investment Management Inc.

An additional US\$150 million was given to Goldman Sachs, doubling the company's quota to US\$300 million.

More than 40 foreign companies have now been given a combined quota of US\$7.845 billion to invest in Chinese markets.



Fashion carnival

A model at the Dalian International Fashion Festival. The fashion carnival attracted four big brands from France: Betsey Johnson, Fatima Lopes, Story Tailors, and PP Form Longwy.

Xinhua Photo

Jiamei launches new dental clinics

Shanghai, September 12 (Interfax) – Beijing Jiamei Dental Hospital Management Co. Ltd announced the launch of a chain of 10 new dental clinics in Beijing.

Jiamei has another 13 chain outlets in Dalian, Shenyang and Shanghai, Lucy Wang, chairman assistant of Jiamei told Interfax. The company expects to open 200 outlets in 2008, when the Olympic Games comes to Beijing.

Beijing North Star to issue A-shares

Hong Kong, September 13 (Reuters) – Beijing North Star Co. Ltd. said it plans to sell up to 1.5 billion A-shares at not less than 2.324 yuan each to fund its investments in Beijing's Olympic media village and other property projects.

The final price of the yuan-denominated sales shares, worth an estimated 3.5 billion yuan (US\$440.4 million), would be determined after consulting 60 institutions from September 13 to 18, it said in a statement.

The share sale represents up to 44.6 percent of the company, which would be listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange before October 18.

Kronos enters Beijing

Chelmsford, September 14 (bizjournals.com) – Chelmsford-based Kronos Inc. reported an expansion into China with the opening of an office in Beijing.

The work-force time management company was founded in 1977 and serves customers in more than 50 countries through its network of offices, subsidiaries and distributors.

Barco takes control of Beijing's JV

Brussels, September 13 (Reuters) – Belgian display and visual systems company Barco has signed an agreement to take 100 percent control of Beijing-based Barco Leyard.

Barco, which makes scoreboards for sports stadiums, medical imaging systems and other display equipment, set up the 80-20 joint venture in 2003 with an option to take full control.

Beijing company moves to Rochester

Rochester, September 13 (rnews.com) – HF Technologies plans to move its manufacturing operation from Beijing, China to Rochester, Monroe County, New York State.

HF Technologies makes teflon and silicone coated rollers, and other components used mainly in copiers and printers. The move is expected to create 76 jobs over five years.

A tax incentive package from Rochester, Monroe County, and New York state helped make the move happen, according to David Fletcher, HF Technologies president.

Nokia signs US\$2.5 bln deals

Helsinki, September 12 (AP) – Nokia Corp. announced deals worth 2 billion euros (US\$2.5 billion) with China, sending the company's shares up three percent.

The contracts, for the whole of 2006, were signed at a meeting of EU and Chinese business leaders attended by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and his Finnish counterpart, Matti Vanhanen.

Deliveries began earlier this year, including digital network equipment for China Mobile valued at some 580 million euros (US\$735 million) and mobile phones worth more than 1.5 billion euros (US\$1.9 billion) for Chinese national mobile phone distributor PTAC.

Nokia has invested 3.3 billion euros (US\$4.2 billion) in China. Last year, China became its largest market with net sales of 3.4 billion euros (US\$4 billion).

Nokia's operations in China include two mobile phone manufacturing facilities, two network manufacturing facilities, and six R&D units focusing on both the Chinese and global markets.

HSBC opens third sub-branch

By He Jianwei

HSBC opened its third sub-branch in Beijing's Lufthansa Center Monday, giving it the largest service network amongst foreign banks in the capital.

The new HSBC sub-branch is in one of Beijing's prime business districts. Focused on premier services, HSBC's global wealth management proposition for retail banking customers, the new sub-branch provides foreign currency services to mainland Chinese citizens and RMB and foreign currency services to foreign nationals and residents of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

Since April 2005, the bank has been expanding its service network, including a branch in COFCO Plaza, and three in China World Center, Zhongguancun Science Park, according to Richard Yorke, CEO China of HSBC.

Why mothers are ditching the nanny to hire a 'manny'?



More men are taking jobs in child care.

Photo provided by state.nd.us

Times Online

"Working mothers are increasingly keen to hire a man to look after their children rather than bring a young, attractive female nanny into their homes," Alexandra Freen reports in *Times Online*.

A survey of 1,500 families by Tinies, a child-care agency, suggests that "Eight out of ten parents said that it was more acceptable now than 10 years ago to hire a male nanny, while 94 percent said that they would consider hiring a man for the job."

Oliver Black, the agency's director, said that female insecur-

ity, jealousy and mistrust were key factors in the change. "Our research shows that the threat of an attractive female nanny is certainly an issue," he said.

Working fathers, however, were far less concerned by the thought of hiring an attractive male nanny, possibly because they believed that a man who worked with children would not be a threat.

However, despite their popularity mannies are in short supply because few men consider going into childcare. And only four percent of people working in the childcare indus-

try are men.

However, men are deterred by the low pay, poor terms and conditions, lack of career progression and the perception that childcare is 'women's work'.

Experts have long called for more men to work in childcare, arguing that children would benefit from exposure to a wider range of positive role models.

The government has been trying to widen the pool of talent entering childcare, fearing that without more men its plans to expand childcare - including the ambitious extended schools program - might fail.

Comments:

It's fine with me as long as he loves kids and knows how to care for them.

— Pam

Caring for children is not a gender-based issue. If the gentleman is competent, passes a background check, and meets the children's needs, hire him.

— Kim Righetti

If we can have female soldiers or fire-fighters, then why not? Equality works both ways, and given the number of males running screaming from their parental responsibilities, the more male nannies the merrier. The sooner we can get away from thinking that jobs are gender specific the better.

— Simon Clark

Our son had a variety of au pairs and nannies while he was growing up. Two were men - one a Basque Spanish male and one Hungarian. Both were perfectly acceptable, but very different from the female au pairs. The females treated my wife and I as surrogate parents and acted as part of the family, whereas the males treated it as a job, were more independent and did not spend so much time interacting with us. Also the males were much less domesticated but that didn't really matter much. Several of the

female au pairs had emotional difficulties (weight issues, homesickness, phobias, boy-friends) while the men had no such issues.

— Simon Kay

People should be hired for their qualities and abilities regardless of gender.

— Tina

In September 1975 I was in the middle of my second tour of south west Belfast with a Scottish infantry battalion. In September 1980, I was caring for my six-month-old daughter and going to the mother and toddler group in the town where I lived. I was caring for her on a full-time basis. I found no problem in adjusting from the life of a soldier to the life of caring full-time for my child.

— Peter

I would not hire a male nanny. I feel there is something inherently wrong with a man if he cannot aspire to a better career; and I would not want to be responsible for encouraging any man to contemplate such a career. It could lead to serious loss of self-respect later on in his life, when he looks back and contemplates what he could have done if he had been pushed in the 'right direction'.

— Charles Byrnell

Weekly topics

Newsweek (US)

1. Boomers, religion and the meaning of life
2. Iran cracks down on media
3. Dems allege intel community shields White House
4. Harvard move stirs early-admissions debate
5. A deadly combination: TB and AIDS

New York Times (US)

1. President Bush's reality
2. For Democrats' hopes, less promise in New York
3. Deal that won Sunni Backing of Iraq constitution sours
4. Harvard ends early admission, citing barrier to disadvantaged
5. The hole in the city's heart

Sydney Morning Herald (Aus)

1. Robson and crew arrested in Indonesia
2. Lonelygirl: a Rose by any other name
3. New Rockstar crowned
4. School shooting: six critical
5. OJ, me and my mate the taxman, by Paul Hogan

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. 'He's a cold-blooded killer'
2. Woman critical, chokes on marshmallow
3. Minister wants Penn's butt
4. Pay will rise, experts predict
5. Rice sings MacKay's praises

(By Jiang Xubo)

Harvard drops 'early action' admissions

Associated Press

Starting next year, Harvard University "will eliminate its early round of admissions that allows high school students to apply by November 1 of their senior year and receive a decision - accept, reject or defer - by December 15. Applicants hoping to enter in the fall of 2008 will face a common application due date of January 1," Justin Pope from Associated Press reports.

Other prestigious universities have tin-

tered with their early admissions policies but Harvard is the first to drop it outright.

Early admissions programs were designed to let students get the process out of the way once they had selected a college. Such programs also help schools like Harvard identify particularly enthusiastic applicants.

"Early admission programs tend to advantage the advantaged," said Harvard interim President Derek Bok. "Students from more sophisticated backgrounds and

affluent high schools often apply early to increase their chances of admission, while minority students and students from rural areas, other countries, and high schools with fewer resources miss out.

Colleges typically take a higher percentage of early applicants, though the applicant pool is usually stronger, too. Last year, Harvard offered admission to about 21 percent of its early-action applicants, according to university figures. But its overall acceptance rate was just 9.3 percent.

Comments:

If you are poor prior to December 31, unless you get an unexpected windfall by January 1, you'll still be poor.

— english high bulldogs 57

It's about time they start with this type of admissions. Maybe now there can be more than just rich students, real people can finally go to this college.

— g marie Gonzales

Affirmative action for whites ending at Harvard.

— bestlandusa

Colleges should accept only the best and brightest regardless of race, creed or color. The other way around is just a waste of funds and resources.

— ohiomalecon

This is so unfair! My parents just paid an 'admissions coach' US\$20,000 to help me write (okay they wrote it) my essay about how a very difficult experience in my life had helped me grow in a way that would allow me to flourish at Harvard.

I guess I will just have to take my Ipod, video-playing cell phone, titanium-encased laptop and my BMW 3-Series convertible to Princeton or Yale.

— BradSRQ

Is the purpose to eliminate the program because it takes advantage of poor students?

Please explain then the added cost of now applying to multiple schools for the poor and middle class students. Each school costs several hundred dollars to apply to. In today's competitive university pool, students need to apply to about 10 schools to feel safe on getting

into a school of choice.

Does Harvard want to subsidize the already now too expensive application process? Harvard should know how to do the math.

— levine.j@sbcglobal.net

No more the best and brightest, the more ambitious are first in line. No, they have to move to the rear to make way for the lazy, ignorant and those used to preferential treatment because of some perceived 'minority' status.

Harvard wasn't worth it before at the prices they charge.

— catchall wm

Harvard rain check admissions. The new wave of the future. Way to go Harvard. Teach people that the early bird doesn't get the worm.

— gameofball

Japanese Nobel Prize winner visits China

By He Jianwei

Ooe Kenzaburo, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, delivered a speech at Changfugong Center yesterday, his last in his fifth visit to China by invitation of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Ooe Kenzaburo summed up his fifth trip to China - and his China complex - in his speech titled 'Lu Xun, China, and Me'. "I still remember that my mother sent me 'Selection from Lu Xun' for my birthday when I was 12," said Ooe. Lu Xun was one of the greatest of China's 20th century writers and influenced a great many both at home and abroad.

Ooe talked about the recent relationship between China and Japan. "It will take time to solve the problems between Japan and China. And I want

to tell my Chinese friends that there are some people in Japan, including the elderly and the young, looking forward to solving the problems."

Over 200 Japanese attended the speech from the Japanese Community in China, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China, and the Beijing Office in Japan Foundation, while almost 300 Chinese were present from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, students majoring in Japanese, and press.

Ooe Kenzaburo gave his speech after his visit to Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Museum. He arrived in Beijing on September 8, and delivered speeches in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Peking University on September 9 and 10.



Ooe Kenzaburo

Photo provided by Qin Lan

Peda power at the Great Wall

By Jackie Zhang

Hundreds of bike fans, dozens of races, a concert and a BBQ - it could only be the 2006 Great Wall Bike Festival (GWBF).

The two-day event, which begins next weekend at Laoshan Park in Shijingshan District, Beijing, is being billed as the ultimate test of pedal power.

Olympic Champions, including 2004 MTB gold medallist Gunn Rita Dahle, American Sue Hayward and the Chinese Marco Polo Pro Team will take part in some of the more elite races.

Trip to Sweden

"Saturday is the road race day and the Chinese winner of the elite road race for men and women will win a trip to Sweden to take part in the Vaternrundan, the biggest amateur road race in the world, which attracts around 11,000 people every year," said Dieter Braekveld from Nordic Ways International, which is helping to organize the event. "Sunday is the mountain bike day and the first Chinese male and female will win a trip to Norway to take part in the Birkebeinerrittet, the biggest mountain bike event in the world with 13,000 participants every year."

World's best bikers

As well as the chance to watch some of the world's best bikers in action, there is also the chance for lesser mortals to take part. There are a number of different amateur races and fun races including the first ever folding-bike race and a kid's race.

"The GWBF is open to the public. Anyone interested can come along to the Laoshan Velodrome to watch the competitions," said Michelle Hsia, project director of Nordic Ways International.

Last year more than 1,000 bike fans from 20 provinces and regions in China and 15 countries took part in the event, including athletes from 26 Chinese universities, 34 companies and 20 bicycle clubs. The location of the event, Laoshan park, will also be the venue for the 2008 Olympic Mountain biking.

Foreign officials learn Chinese in Beijing



If I fail this, the DA will be chewing my ass... Photo provided by BFSU

By Annie Wei

Sixteen officials from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Turkey started a training program in

Beijing Foreign Studies University this week.

The Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized

the Training Program for Law-Enforcement Liaison Officials in the International Exchange Institute of the university.

According to the organizers, ASEAN has become one of the most important business partners to China. Meanwhile, China can learn from ASEAN countries' rich experience in anti-terrorism, drug crime, money-laundering, foreigner management, as well as city security and traffic management.

Although China and ASEAN have different public security and judicial systems, the Ministry of Public Security decided to start

the program to further the cooperation among liaison officials from these countries.

Li Bing, director from the International Exchange Institute said that it was the first year for the program but the Ministry of the Public Bureau plans to organize it every year.

According to the program, the students will spend the first half-year learning Chinese and then get involved in practical knowledge of China's judicial system.

"There are 11 students who barely speak any Chinese," Li said, "they will learn in a basic language class."

Asian Formula Renault Challenge championship revs up

By Chen Shasha

The Asian Formula Renault Challenge championships, one of the most popular single-seater car racing events in the world, will start on Sunday in Golden Port Motor Park, Jinzhaxiang, Chaoyang District.

There are Formula Renault championships in Brazil, Italy, Holland, Denmark, North America and Asia. The Asian series includes some of the most skilled youngsters in the region, all driving identical Formula Renault machines. This time, there will be 15 drivers from Asia, Germany and Sweden.

This Sunday, the first-round final competition will start at 11am, and the second will be at 5:40pm.

Tickets for the competition are 100 yuan. Dial 010-84333498 for booking.

Expat teacher empowers train users

By Huang Daohen

Ten-forty-five pm! A time those who live in the far east of Beijing and have to go back home via the Batong line should bear in mind every day, for it is the departure time for the last train east on the Batong line. Gary J Minter, an American teacher living in rented housing in Tongzhou and working in the west of the city, is one of the clock-watchers.

Too early

"Every time when I visit friends, I always disappoint them by frequently looking at my watch, because I have to get the last train," Gary said, "I suffer no traffic jams and get a clean carriage, and I can also enjoy the beautiful scenery along the Batong line. The only problem is the last departure time is too early."

Gary, the founder of Health China, a group that focuses on AIDS treatment in China, once issued over 10,000 cards to the

people he met on the train to call for a later last train on the Batong line. The card read, 'Don't you feel that the daily operation of the Batong line ends too early? If you share the same feeling, help try to change it'. The mail address and phone numbers of the authorities were also attached.

"Most people need to work later in the night nowadays, especially in Beijing, an international metropolis," Gary feels nostalgic for the New York subway, which runs all night long. When he arrived in China, he was not used to the operation of the Batong line. And sometimes he must work late in west Beijing and is not able to catch the last train.

Dark & Lonely

"Many of my students, especially the girls, feel uneasy if they miss the 10:45pm train from Sihui, because it is dark and lonely, and they have no choice but to take a taxi, many of which

are unlicensed, to the university. This is a matter of public safety as well as convenience," Gary said. He has emailed and also made calls to the authorities but without any satisfactory replies.

Own expense

After printing the cards at his own expense, Gary always carries them with him. And many people support this new age citizen. "We all agree with him and it's appreciated that he carried out what he believed in while we just complain," one passenger said.

After contacting the Beijing Subway Operation Company (BSOC), BSOC told Beijing Today that since the Batong line is still in the trial operation period, they must ensure the metro vehicles, equipment and the track are in good condition at nighttime. However, the authority is now considering running later trains, and an adjustment will be carried out later this year.

Made in India shows a rising star

By Han Manman

The three day 'Made in India' show jointly organized by the Indian Industry League and Indian Embassy finished Monday in Beijing.

This is the fourth consecutive year the 'Made in India' show has been held in China. The exhibition represents a diverse range of technologies, from software to traditional medicine, medical devices, engineering products and textiles. The three days of

events included business seminars as well as portrayals of the rich Indian cultural heritage, exhibited through cultural events and food festivals.

Over 50 firms representing a cross-section of Indian industries took part in the show, led by Indian Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal to look for further cooperation and joint venture avenues in China.

Sibal believes the target is eminently attainable because

the two countries have large potential for cooperation in many sectors. "India has huge capabilities in management. China has a lot in manufacturing on the ground, but is relatively weaker in management. China has great talents in hardware. We can mix the hardware of China with the software of India," Sibal said.

The show, organized by the apex industry lobby Confederation of Indian Industry

(CII), sought to assist in increasing India's competitiveness in world markets and showcase Indian industry's goods, services and technologies to the world.

Coinciding with the show, a 12-member delegation of leading Indian entrepreneurs and chief executives was also in Beijing to give a push to the 'India Everywhere' campaign in China after successful stops in Switzerland, Germany, Japan and Britain.

Malaysian landing visa fees raised

By Chu Meng

As National Day golden week approaches, tourists will have to pay more for their trips to Malaysia. The country just raised landing visa fees by US\$20 per person from this Monday.

This week, all Chinese tourism companies received a notice from the Embassy of Malaysia, saying the landing visa fees have increased from US\$10 to US\$30 for each person. It means Chinese tourists have to pay about 160 yuan more to cover their expenses.

At present, only tourists who join in multi-country itineraries which include Malaysia can apply for the landing visa. The service is not available for those traveling only to Malaysia.

Thai Embassy holds charity fair

By Huang Daohen

The Royal Thai Embassy in China will hold a Thai Charity Fair on Saturday and Sunday, at its new site.

The fair will raise funds for the Ji County Middle School of Hebei Province to build up a library. At the fair, visitors will have a chance to purchase exquisite Thai handicrafts and goods, enjoy authentic Thai cuisine and relax with a traditional Thai massage. The professional Thai art troupe, flown in from Thailand especially for this event, will also perform both traditional and modern dances.

"I am most certain that all visitors will not only get to know more about Thailand but also make a great contribution to



Thai folk: polite

Photo provided by Thai Embassy

charity and society and help those who need assistance," Julapong Nonsrichai, Ambassador of Thailand to China said in a news briefing on September 6. His wife, Siriporn Nonsrichai

will personally make Thai delicacies to be sold.

The donation will be channeled through the Association of Former Diplomats, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

Ukrainian embassy celebrates Independence

By He Jianwei

The Ukrainian embassy had a luncheon at Kunlun Hotel on Tuesday to celebrate the 15th anniversary of their independence.

Over 300 guests attended, including officials from other embassies, members of the Ukrainian community in Beijing, officials from the Chinese government, businessmen and journalists.

Almost 40 students majoring in Ukrainian from Beijing Foreign Studies University were also invited, said Dr Vasyl Gamyranin, the first secretary at the embassy.

During the luncheon, a song and dance troupe sang Ukrainian folk songs and performed a traditional dance.

The Slovak Republic celebrates national day

By Gan Tian

The Slovak Republic celebrated their national day and the day of the country's armed forces on Tuesday. Illustrious guests were invited to celebrate in the embassy garden.

On the occasion, the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic Zigmund Bertok with his wife, and the Defense Attache Eduard Csonga and his wife, invited more than 100 people, including officials from other embassies, Chinese government officials, business leaders, and reporters.

On August 29 1944, the people of the Slovak Republic rose up against their Nazi oppressors. In order to commemorate this event, August 29 is their national day.

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World's Strongest Men to tear up China again

By Gareth George

Jesse Marunde of the USA smiles and flexes for the flashbulbs. Pop and relax. His hand swallows that of the wiry youth posing with him. Giggling girls move forward, Jesse smiles, then looks mean, flexes. Flashbulbs pop. The fixed smiles come easily now. "We don't mind the photo sessions," he says, "It's more grueling in the US." Jesse is no fashion model. In fact, he's probably closer to the beast than any kind of beauty. He's 6'5" and 135kg of solid muscle, runner-up in last year's MET-Rx World's Strongest Man.

He and Poland's Mariusz Pudzianowski, the World's Strongest Man, are in Beijing to publicize the competition. This is the second year it's been held in China. Last year Chengdu. This time, Sanya. It starts September 14.

Hungry

But now, Jesse is hungry. His entourage tails him into Parfum French restaurant.

Jesse sits, next to an empty chair for Mariusz, who is napping. Jesse's a head taller than anyone else at the table; twice as wide. A waiter circles, audibly pouring the Evian. "No, I fly economy class," Jesse says to someone, "I've never flown first...surprised I fit?"

A commotion at the entrance signals the arrival of Mariusz. Everyone stops and stares. He's dressed head-to-toe in red and white branded MET-Rx sportswear. It's like the heavyweight champ just walked in, though it would take a brave man to suggest Mariusz' three WSM titles were not the equal of a boxer's belt. He sits next to Jesse and the two fall into conversation about 'products' - the generic name for the barrels of supplements such athletes need. "Drink six, seven weeks...up 50 kilos...serious," Mariusz says, in a Borsht-thick growl. Jesse whistles.

Jesse orders from the set busi-

ness lunch, "Can I get two beefs?" he says.

Mariusz is pretty hungry now too. "My dad is maybe 80kg max. I eat everything plus supplements," he counts them on his fingers. "I never diet," he swigs down the first of his Cokes.

Win, win, win

It's competition that brings down the weight of these guys. "Last year, after WSM, I came back to Poland," Mariusz says, "Two days later, they say, 'Mariusz, you must compete'. I say, 'I'm not strong now', I weigh 120kg max. But I win."

"Win, win, win," Jesse mimics, "Always win."

So who's going to be WSM this year? The two agree it depends on which events are selected. "There is always the [Atlas] Stones and Truck Pull," says Mariusz. They are told the events in advance, just not the order. Jesse likes three of the events this year, Mariusz likes five.

Arriving in China, Mariusz



The writer gets to grips with Jesse Marunde.

Photo by Jackie Xu

and Jesse don't really think about training. They're focused on getting over jetlag and relaxing. "Once, five weeks before WSM I tear," says Mariusz, he slices a finger round his tree-trunk arm. "So I train one hand," he taps his

head, "It's all up here."

Obnoxious

But they will train in commercial gyms, at least to pose for photos. Jesse rolls his eyes. "Our real training is way too obnoxious for them. We shout, lift stones, drop barbells...they'd throw us out." At home Jesse uses a range of strongman equipment, named Pitbulk. Laid out, it's a welded steel wasteland, more something Mad Max might run into than a Lycra clad gym-bunny.

The two are happy to be competing in China again, though two other competitors did run into trouble in Chengdu. "They went to a bar, and coming back, hopped in a taxi, showed their hotel key to the driver," Jesse says, "He seemed to be taking them a long way, so they shouted at him. When they arrived at the hotel, the driver jumped out and ran over to some police. Turns out he wasn't a taxi at all - he was just too scared to say anything."

Holiday plans? How about building a house?



Bricking it—volunteers help to build houses for China's poor.

Photo provided by Habitat Guangxi

By Annie Wei

The Golden Week national holiday is less than a month away, and people have started to make their holiday plans: some will go hiking, some will go traveling, some will visit home and family, or... like Eleanor Brock, a teacher at the International School of Beijing, some will head to the countryside to build houses through charity Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity International is an international non-government organization dedicated to eliminating poor housing. They work with people of different backgrounds, races

and religions to build homes in partnership with families in need. People can get involved by volunteering labor and financial contribution to build simple, decent and affordable housing for low-income families.

The organization came to China in 2000. Their first office was in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province. In 2004, they opened new offices in Guangxi and Guangdong as well.

Bryan Withall, the Regional Program Advisor from Guangxi said the charity welcomes help from people all over China.

"Many people contact us wanting to get involved," he

said. "We usually ask them to form a group of volunteers and to raise a certain amount in donations. We organize for groups of 10 to 20 volunteers to go to the countryside to build homes. They are required to raise enough to build one house, around 20,000 yuan."

"We plan to have one or two volunteer projects every month," said Bryan. Bryan and his colleagues' volunteer projects have been packed in September and October. All three project offices in Southern China run similar programs.

Withall and his colleague's work includes helping and guid-

ing volunteers on how to get involved. They also provide information about what to budget for, including transportation, tools, food and lodgings and sometimes the cost of hiring construction workers.

"Building a house is quite a complicated procedure," he said. "Sometimes we have to hire professional construction teams to help out."

Two teams from Shanghai will help build houses over the national holiday. Volunteer groups from international corporations like Nike will join them. Holiday Plans? How about building a house?

A week for lovers of all things German

By Jackie Zhang

German Week got off to a flying start at the Capital Normal University this week, with lectures, films and a party for people with a love of the German language.

During the two weeks, professors and foreign teachers from Beijing Foreign Studies University and Capital Normal University (CNU) will give lectures and speeches on the language, culture and Chinese ties to Germany in CNU. German language learners will also get the chance to take part in a 'German Corner' to practice their language skills.

Schedule of events:

German movie broadcasting

Time: 6 pm, September 18 to September 21

Venue: Room 102, College of Foreign Languages, Capital Normal University

Admission: Free

German Week closing party

Time: 6 pm, September 22

Venue: Report Hall, College of Foreign Languages, Capital Normal University

Admission: Free

Between September and October, large numbers of international students will come to China to study. To help these new comers, *Beijing Today* published a four-page supplement (page 11-14) on September 1 for new foreign students, with information on everything from Chinese laws to how to make friends. *Beijing Today* ran a special page with information on how to get study scholarships in China. This week we will focus on traveling around China. If there is anything more you want to find out about, e-mail hejianwei@ynet.com and he will do his best to hunt down the information you need.

Golden Week travel



Shanghai is a popular destination for many overseas students in China.

CFP Photo

By He Jianwei

China has two 'golden weeks' every year, from May 1 to 7 and from October 1 to 7, national holidays started by the State Council in 1999. The idea was that the holidays would give hard-working Chinese a chance to see more of their beautiful country.

Unfortunately, these national holidays have a reputation for being more of a national scrum than a holiday.

Tourism chiefs insist the situation is improving and that, with a bit of hindsight and planning, the Golden Week break can be one to remember.

Ma Xuejun, an officer from

the Exit and Entry Management Section of Beijing's Public Security Bureau recounts the following horror stories and gives tips on how to avoid doing the same thing.

Case one:

Although this didn't happen over the October holiday, it remains a valuable lesson for us all. There was a fire at the overseas students' dormitory at a university in Beijing during the Spring Festival holiday, the traditional Chinese festival held in January or February.

The fire was caused by an electric fault. Two students who had left the dorm before going trav-

eling forgot to turn off an electric blanket. The administrators of the dormitory were on duty and found the fire in time, so fortunately no one was injured in the fire.

Case two:

Two students paid a visit to Yunnan in the southwest of China without telling their teachers, advisors, classmates or even their parents. They didn't come back to university at the end of their holiday.

Their parents couldn't contact their children so they called their country's embassy in China. The embassy contacted the Exit and Entry Management Section

at Beijing's Public Security Bureau. The Chinese policemen and clerks from the embassy worked together to try to track down the students.

The students eventually returned to college on October 17, ten days after the end of the holiday. Their university punished them both. Tut tut.

One of the main things Ma Xuejun's department deals with is lost passports and wallets.

"We are constantly dealing with cases of travelers losing their passports, wallets and other important certificates, especially when they're traveling by train," said Ma.

Tips:

1. Before you leave to go on holiday, check that all your electrical appliances are turned off in your home and that all windows and doors are closed.

2. Tell teachers, advisors, friends and your parents and relatives about your plans. Keep in contact with them during your trip.

3. If you're staying at a friend's house on holiday you should apply for a temporary resident certificate at the nearest police station within 24 hours. Or just try your luck.

4. Keep your belongings, passport, and other important certificates in a safe place. If you lose any of your belongings or are robbed during your trip, call 110 as soon as possible. The nearest police station will deal with your inquiry. If you lost your visa, report it and make sure you get a certificate to prove that it has been reported lost.

Special tips for journeys to Tibet:

According to the laws and regulations of China, you are forbidden to visit Tibet on your own. If you want to go to Tibet you're meant to go in a group. You should apply for group travel through a registered travel agency.

For expedition lovers:

Students who like expeditions should follow the following tips:

1. Travel in groups. Choose a legitimate travel agency, an expedition society, or a mountaineering society.

2. Before your trip, you should make a plan to deal with any possible emergency.

3. Choose a village or mountaineering camp as your base.

Pay attention to the weather. Before your trip, check out the weather at your destination over the last few days.

N W

BEIJING TODAY

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English



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Field of Vision



"It is a global project and in order to work on a global scale you have to use the internet."

"When you look at the array of Chinese internet sites, it is so vast and commercial. The only way to gather submissions was to actually approach Chinese artists to take part."

— Stephan Hausmeister

By David Drakeford

Field of Vision: Beijing represents a year-long collaboration between German artist Stephan Hausmeister and the owners of Beijing New Art Projects, an important exhibition space and focal point in the development of Chinese contemporary art and avant-garde performance at the spiritual and physical center of the 798 Art District. The wall-based installation is constructed from 'visual blogs' of Beijing – photographs collected from 160 artists worldwide. It reflects the unique situation of modern day Beijing, including its relationship to global issues and perceptions.

The official opening of *Field of Vision: Beijing* is at 3pm on September 16, but the project can be viewed until the 20th or via an online version where visitors can navigate the surface of the wall and zoom in on focus points. When

asked why he had chosen this duel platform format Hausmeister says "It is a global project and in order to work on a global scale you have to use the internet. At the same time, it needs a local physical presence because if it were only in cyberspace, like other new media projects, it would be rather boring."

The majority of the artists featured are Chinese, both famous and less well known. The project is different from a typical exhibition by one artist who wishes to sell his work, in that many people have come together and so *Field of Vision: Beijing* has been a great opportunity for making industry contacts and friends within Beijing and China. Hausmeister discovered the Chinese custom of using personal contacts during this venture. Previously two *Field of Vision* projects have taken place, in New York and Frankfurt, with no response from Chinese artists save for the two brothers behind the New Art

Projects studio whose influence and personal connections led to the overwhelming quantity of contributions to the Beijing piece.

"When you look at the array of Chinese internet sites, it is so vast and commercial. The only way to gather submissions was to actually approach Chinese artists to take part. As soon as there were couple of big names behind it then word got round. In the west there are well-organized large art institutions on the internet but new media art is relatively new to China."

Hausmeister expresses amazement at the fast pace of development at the 798 Art District, even in the year since his last visit. "It's good on one hand but there are signs that the area is being taken over by galleries from the west and big business, which is always bad for the ordinary artists who want to have a studio because the rents inevitably go up – it's the same story in all art districts."



Look closer: focus points on the wall

Featured artists:

Feifei Lu: www.feifeilu.com

Han Bing: www.amormundi.com

Lead artist:

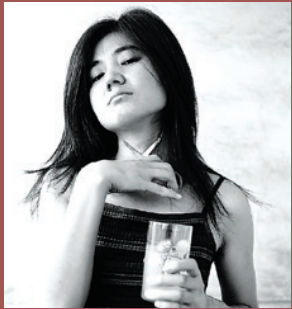
Stephan Hausmeister:
www.hausmeister.co.uk

900+ contributed images at:

www.field-of-vision.net/Beijing/Raw/



Love in the Age of Big Construction II



Featured artist: Feifei Lu

Feifei Lu is a young writer and artist from Shandong Province. She published her first semi autobiographical novel *Desiring Green Apples* in 2005 and has recently returned from London where she worked on many collaborative projects.

The works she has submitted for Field of Vision are photographs of installation pieces. The image shown is titled *Flying to Work*. It consists of one thousand shoe soles that have been embroidered with words from her novel of the same name. “In my imagination and dreams, if people were able to fly to work it would be a wonderful thing,” She says. “Therefore I made some magic soles for them to wear so that they would be able to fly and see the landscape down below them.”

“I think that if I were British I may well not choose to be an artist, because life is so much freer there, I would want to take advantage, be more comfortable and travel and maybe write. By having more freedom I would have less need to express.”



Way to go: Feifei Lu's Flying to Work



Featured artist: Han Bing

In 1974, Han Bing was born in rural Jiangsu. At three he began to draw in the dirt with pieces of broken glass because his family could not afford art supplies. Moving to Beijing crystallized his art around the social changes rocking China.

“Few artists in the contemporary scene come from rural villages,” says Han Bing. “My background sensitized me to the poignancy of ordinary people’s lives and helped me work with them as equals, not as objects of pity or disdain.”

Han Bing’s contribution to Field of Vision includes *Love in the Age of Big Construction II*, a multimedia performance installation, interrogating the human costs of China’s rush toward urban modernity.

“I reject binary terms like east and west – divisions that estrange us (humanity) from each other. Boundary blurring in the form of transgender explorations often figures in my work, but this is not simply a comment on gender itself. Rather gender represents a whole set of limiting categories that constrain and divide us - race, nationality, man, woman, human, animal, etc. My work is first and foremost about love of the world, amor mundi, not a trendy topic these days but something we desperately need.”

Off the wall: Stephan takes a well-earned ten-second break



Opening event: September 16, 3pm

Exhibiting the finished *Field of Vision* 40×2m wall.
Video presentation by Helen Marshall and Feifei Lu exploring international artist’s responses to China.
Beijing New Art Projects
798 Art District
No. 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu
Tel: 8456 6660

Opinion

“I like the calligraphy across the field; it’s like a feast for the eyes. It would be good to know the story behind each image, for example something about the artists. We have looked at a lot of artists’ works but it is hard to find information about them. But as this will be on the field of vision website we will definitely go and look.”

– Freda Larsen & Bettina Pederson, visitors to the gallery

Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman

Sounds intriguing. Is there a central thread that links the stories in this collection?

"As in his novels, Murakami's central fascination is with the essential strangeness and unfathomability of life. (...) In story after story, seemingly ordinary people relay instantly engrossing histories – often through a writer named Murakami – that turn on coincidence or surreal elements and blur the line between dreams and reality."

– Heller McAlpin, *Christian Science Monitor*

So those new to Murakami should be prepared for a literary trip to the world of the weird?

"Weirdness fills these engrossing stories from throughout Murakami's career. (...) Murakami has perfected a note of elegiac horror, but even his ickiest plot devices are steeped in a quizzical anxiety. (...) Although Murakami's style and deadpan humor are wonderfully distinctive, his emotional territory is more familiar – remorse, unresolved confusion, sudden epiphanies – though heightened by the surreal."

– David Jays, *The Observer*

Interesting.... So which stories are the best?

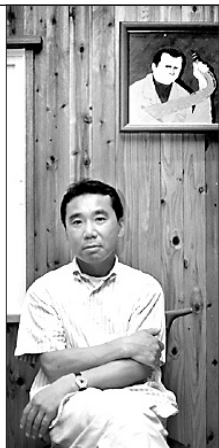
"Murakami is at his best telling shaggy – dog stories in which inexplicable events help the characters to understand truths that they've hidden from themselves, and in the five 'strange tales from Tokyo' he does just that. Packed with talking monkeys and violent karate champions, they're funny but also sad and wise."

– Christopher Tayler, *Daily Telegraph*

Anyone else?

"By far the best stories are those that Murakami wrote for *The New Yorker*. (...) These stories are rich in Murakami magic, and elevate Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman from being a fan-only purchase to a collection that all readers will enjoy."

– Matt Thorne, *The Independent*



Author: Haruki Murakami

Synopsis: A young man accompanies his cousin to the hospital to check an unusual hearing complaint and recalls a story of a woman put to sleep by tiny flies crawling inside her ear; a mirror appears out of nowhere and a night watchman is unnerved as his reflection tries to take control of him; a couple's relationship is unbalanced after dining exclusively on exquisite crab while on holiday; a man follows instructions on the back of a postcard to apply for a job, but an unknown password stands between him and his mysterious employer. In each one of these stories, Murakami sidesteps the real and sprints for the surreal. Everyday events are transcended, leaving the reader dazzled by this master of his craft. "Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman" is Murakami's most eclectic collection of stories to date, spanning five years of his writing.

Ok, so I've got the idea, the stories are "rich in Murakami magic", "filled with weirdness" and "packed with talking monkeys." But are they actually any good?

"In many of these stories, narrative tension is prolonged by a refusal to explain (...) The stories in this collection have all of Murakami's characteristic strangeness, but they combine the strangeness with structure. They show him at his very best; not as a cult novelist but as a really first-rate writer of short fiction. (...) The lasting effect is not that of a Japanese writer trying to write about the west, but of a writer whose relationship with his own culture is as complex, strange and powerful as the stories he creates."

– Tobias Hill, *The Guardian*

Do Murakami's stories shed any light on contemporary culture?

"If Murakami's novels are grand enigmas, his stories are bite-sized conundrums. (...) The great pleasure of the new story collection, *Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman*, is watching Murakami come at his obsessions from so many different angles. There's a panoply of strangeness between these covers (...) This collection shows Murakami at his dynamic, organic best. As a chronicler of contemporary alienation, a writer for the Radiohead age, he shows how taut and thin our routines have become, how ill-equipped we are to contend with the forces that threaten to disrupt us."

– Antoine Wilson, *The Los Angeles Times*

It's all starting to sound incredibly enticing...

"A warning to new readers of Haruki Murakami: You will become addicted. Fans of the Japanese star are impassioned and relentless, and in this new collection Murakami deals the same divine drug. (...) Inconclusive, bewildering and totally engaging, the whodunit survives in Murakami's work as a tired framework to be purged of its contents and refilled with ironic, metaphysical, quixotic mysteries: hard-boiled narratives for the postmodern set."

– Jenna Krajeski, *San Francisco Chronicle*

Anyone disagree?

"Haruki Murakami's fictional world is extraordinary, but within the indisputable and beguiling weirdness that lurks below the casual-seeming surface, there is often a core that is disappointingly commonplace or even banal. (...) Too many stories use loneliness as a predictable plot device rather than a discovery about feeling. Characters have off-the-peg existential crises, resulting in sweating and vomiting for men, and silent tears and shoulder-shaking sobs for women."

– Tom Deveson, *The Sunday Times*

Finally, does this compilation tell us much about the great man Mr Murakami himself?

"Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman will delight readers who think of Haruki Murakami as a provider of the bizarre but, underneath the seemingly random obsessions with cats, doors to nowhere and disappearing people, this collection says more about his own career and changing attitudes to life than perhaps he would admit."

– Jonathan Ellis, *Times Literary Supplement*

An intriguing point on which to end, I think you will agree.

(By Tom Mackenzie)

Local shelf

March



Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
By Geraldine Brooks
Harper perennial,
280pages, 120yuan

March is an extraordinary novel woven out of the lore of American history. It is Geraldine Brooks' imagining of the life of John March, the absent father of the March girls from Little Women. In *March*, John March is an anti-slavery idealist and contemporary of Emerson and Thoreau. Although, he's opposed to war, he enlists as a chaplain in the Union Army during the Civil War, but he finds the common soldier lacks his abolitionist fervor. His pontification makes the soldiers uncomfortable. The realities of war and human weaknesses collide with his idealistic principles, rendering a good man ineffective when he's most needed.

China Shakes the World

By James Kynge
Weidenfeld & Nicolson,
244pages, 195yuan

The book beautifully tells a story on the new China, the nation that in 25 years has changed beyond all recognition, becoming an industrial powerhouse for the world.

James Kynge, China Bureau Chief of the *Financial Times* since 1998, shows not only the extraordinary rise of the Chinese economy, but what the future holds as China begins to influence the world. This is the book for anyone who wants to understand this astonishing turn-round. As foreign investment continues to pour into China, the key question surely is: as a businessperson, what can he or she do to succeed in business with China.

Available:
Beijing Bookworm
Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang
Tel: 65869507

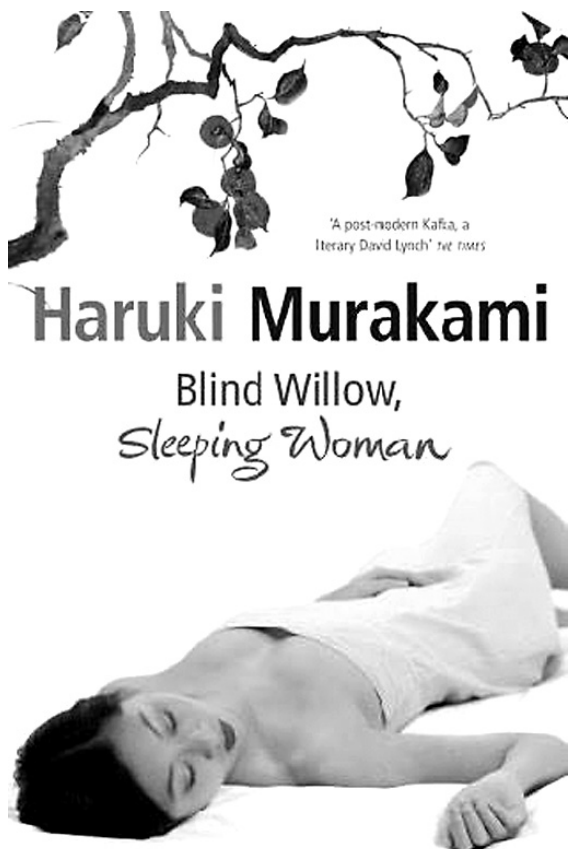
The Photography of Nan Goldin

By Jonathan Weinberg,
Joyce Henri Robinson
Tate Publishing, 80 pages,
225yuan

Nan Goldin is known for documenting her surrogate family of friends as they engage in intimate, uninhibited, or illicit activities. These unusually lit images are frank confrontations with personal experience, frequently presented in poses that mimic the styles of the fashion world.

Available:
Timezone 8 Art books
Where: Jia 24-2 Meishuguan
Dong Dajie, Dongcheng
Contact: 6400 4427

(By Han Manman)



By Chu Meng

Winter is one of my favorite seasons, not because of the snow or the cold but because it marks the beginning of hotpot season. Hotpot, or *Huo guo* in Chinese, (huo means fire and guo means pot) is tasty, healthy, and cheap.

Eating hot pot is not a passive activity: diners must select morsels of prepared raw food from plates scattered around the table, place them in the pot, wait for them to cook, fish them out of the soup, dip

them in the preferred sauce, and then eat them hot, fresh, and tender. They can also ladle up the broth from the pot and drink it.

The cooking practice originated in Mongolia over a thousand years ago, but is now seen in a variety of forms throughout east Asia. Mongolian nomads would cook meat and vegetables in a pot over the embers of a campfire, thinly slicing meat so it could be cooked with the minimal use of precious fuel.

Below we review four of the best hotpot restaurants in Beijing.

Fight off the winter chill with a hearty hotpot

Taiwan Hotpot: Guo Bi Pen Da

By Chu Meng

The name of this restaurant literally means, 'the pot is bigger than a washbasin'. The menu has so many items to offer that you'll have to come back for a second tasting.

The owners of Guo Bi Pen Da are rightly proud of their curry soup (58 yuan), which is prepared with the chef's choice of Chinese traditional medicines and over 20 spices. Cooked on a mild fire for over eight hours, the quality of this soup is guaranteed, but whether or not it will help you burn off fat as some claim, is still a culinary mystery.

Other soups include a satay soup (48 yuan) made with chicken and ham; a Thai style hot, sour soup for spicy food lovers; and a light Jinhua ham superior soup (38 yuan) made with Jinhua ham, chicken, fish and lean meat. Most of the soups are cooked for several hours to get the best flavor from the ingredients, making the addition of MSG pointless.

Onto the dipping sauce – unlike most places that just give you a small bowl of whatever they have, here you can actually choose your favorites from 12 different ingredients including spring onions, chili peppers, soy sauce, vinegar, peanut butter and chili oil.

To enjoy hotpot, of course, you must have something to cook in the soup. At Guo Bi Pen Da, American prime beef (55 yuan) is pretty appealing both in presentation and taste. Another favorite is the handmade mixed meatballs (28 yuan) made with lamb, beef, pork or shrimp. The best choice on the menu must be the tender, almond coated duck (35 yuan). The three-layer delicacy combines a slice of duck breast, fresh shrimp, and crispy baked almond creating a mouth watering dish.

The unusual drinks list includes Hennessy XO, rarely seen on sale in hotpot restaurants, at a whopping 1,280 yuan as well as a choice of French wines. Chinese businessmen will order the Hennessy when treating a VIP client or signing an important contract. This is the art of Chinese dining.

Guo Bi Pen Da

Where: No.8, forth floor, Worker's Stadium west road, Chaoyang

Open: 11am-5am the next day
Tel: 6551 8606



Photo provided by Porridge Hotpot

Porridge or hotpot – that is the question

By Gan Tian

Porridge Hotpot, in the Beichen area, is a restaurant that serves hotpot with a difference – porridge is put into the boiling pot instead of soup.

The method of cooking slices of meat, fish, noodles and vegetables in a pot of hot rice porridge originated in Guangdong Province. And it is a very different hotpot experience – the food feels heavier in your mouth and is altogether more fulfilling.

Along with the porridge, this eatery takes pride in its seasoning. You can choose from a range of different spices, herbs and flavorings – the sesame butter was our favorite.

Unfortunately this place is not a good spot for a romantic meal for two. The waitresses are just a touch too attentive. Many of them will stand by your table, waiting to stir the porridge or add water, which makes having a private conversation rather difficult. It's fair enough – the porridge needs continuous attention or the rice will burn in the pot. Just don't come with your girlfriend to propose to her, or the waitresses will watch your every move.

Porridge Hotpot

Where: First Floor, Sunshine Plaza, No.68, Anli Road, Yayuncun, Chaoyang

Price: Around 50 yuan per person

Tel: 6493 9797, 6498 0187

A traditional Chinese-style hotpot

Fish flavored hotpot

By Jackie Zhang

If you are fond of eating fish hotpot and like a quiet atmosphere, Haiyouyu Theme Restaurant may be the place for you.

Sitting in the area of Xibahe, next to the north third ring road, Haiyouyu is a renovated former Hongjingyu Restaurant, one of the first for the famous Beijing spicy boiled fish dish. The restaurant is decorated in red with dark-colored tables and soft green sofas.

The soup of the hotpot is made of selected seasonings and dozens of traditional Chinese medicinal herbs. It is a pure white color, like milk, and is fresh and nourishing. The fish that is used in the hotpot is usually carp.

There are four kinds of dipping sauce to go with the hotpot at this restaurant including seafood flavored, spicy and satay, all costing three yuan each. Peanuts, lobster sauce and shallots are served for added flavor.

You can order vegetables and meat like shrimp and pork to the fish hotpot.

As well as the hotpot, you can order spicy boiled fish and smoked fish.



Many diners prefer fish heads to body meats.

Photo provided by Haiyouyu Theme Restaurant

The fish are 26 yuan a kilo and if you order either of the two dishes above you get the hotpot for free.

Other suggested dishes:

Fish hotpot: 35 yuan for a small pot and 58 yuan for a big pot.

Home-made dishes: duck roll, 18 yuan; shrimp salad, 19 yuan; pork served with salted dried mustard vegetables, 9 yuan; fruit and vegetable salad, 9 yuan.

Snack: taro sesame roll, 10 yuan.

Haiyouyu Theme Restaurant

Where: South of Chongqing Restaurant, Xibahe, Chaoyang

Open: 11am-10:30pm

Tel: 6420 4776

Thai hotpot: a multi-colored hotpot

By Chu Meng

The True Colors of the Hotpot restaurant is a Thai twist on the traditional Mongolian-style hotpot with a minimalist décor interior, large tables, open spaces and a lounge. The concept behind their hotpot is simplicity with a light environment, light taste, light sauce and lightly spiced broths and soups, which are all natural and healthy.

The chef's at this restaurant offer several choices of broth including: chicken, pepper and chilli, shrimp and curry. The house specialty is a three-taste-in-one soup called 'Benz Pot' (48 yuan) where three different soups served together in a pot separated into three sections, looking like the Mercedes Benz logo from above.

The dipping sauces vary from sesame paste and seafood juice, to barbeque sauce and Thai seasoning.



The Thai-style balls are perfect for hotpot.

Photo provided by The True Colors of the Hotpot

The menu also includes business set meals, like spicy beef with coconut sauce, pork chop rice and fried chicken rice noodle. Most are pretty good but steer clear of the stir-fried rice, which is so oily you're left with a thick layer of grease at the bottom of your bowl.

The True Colors of the Hotpot

Where: No.26 Xiaoyun Lu, (opposite to a Sinopec Gas station), East Third Ring Road, Chaoyang

Open: 11am-11pm

Tel: 8448 2269

100 yuan voucher

Spend over 99 yuan at Xin Shi Jie shopping mall (3 Chongwenmenwai Dajie, Chongwen) and get a 100-yuan discount voucher until September 15. For details, call 6708 0055.

**20 yuan voucher**

Spend over 100 yuan at Hongfanqie Chuzhenfang restaurant (Hangtianqiao, Haidian) between Monday and Friday and get a 20-yuan discount voucher until September 23. The voucher can only be used for lunch. For details, call 6845 6158.

**25% off desserts**

Get up to 25% off four desserts at He Le Mi cafe (174 Dongzhimennei Dajie) until September 20. For details, call 8402 7793.

**30 yuan voucher**

Spend over 100 yuan at Yuan Ming Yuan Chengdu restaurant (Yuanmingyuan-qiao, Haidian) and get a 30-yuan discount voucher until September 22.

**Cut-price vodka**

Peach flavored vodka at Yu Wang Cheng Shi (15 Tianhefang, Shichahai, Xicheng) is just 360 yuan a bottle until September 17. For details, call 6612 5046.

**40% off**

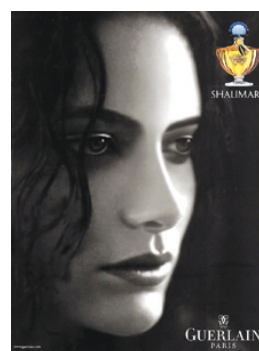
Get 40% off all drinks at Focus Bar (141 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng) until September 15. Bands will also take to the stage between 8 pm-12 pm. For details, call 8195 8468.

**Buffet dinner**

French and Russian buffet dinner just 58-88 yuan per person at Wei Lan western food restaurant (27 Gulouwai Dajie, Wanwang building). Free salad bar, Monday-Friday 6pm-9pm, Saturday-Sunday, all day long. For details, call 8413 5540.

**Buy one get one free**

Buy a sandwich at Subway (B1 Zhidixing-zuo, Huayuanjie, Chaoyang) between 6pm and 7pm and get another free until September 30. For details, call 5851 8031.

**Free handbag**

Spend over 1,800 yuan at the Guerlain counter at Xidan Saite Shopping Center (111 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng) and get a free handbag. Spend over 1,080 yuan and get a set of five free cosmetics until September 20. For details, call 6615 0218.

20 % off ice cream

Get 20% off all ice cream at TCBY ice cream cafe (B1 Zhongyuancun Gouwuguangchang, Haidian) until September 21. For details, call 6843 2287.

T-Bar

Go 'Cointreauversal' in September. Unleash the personality within and match it with one of T-Bar's Cointreau cocktails: B52; Only You; Screaming Sandy; and more between September 1 and September 30. For more information, call 6505 2277 ext.35

Free mobile phone

Spend over 4,567 yuan at Xin Shi Jie shopping mall (3 Chongwenmenwai Dajie, Chongwen) on September 15 and get a free mobile phone (Motorola V3). For details, call 6708 0055.

(By Terence Lu)

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Enjoy Pola, Enjoy Life

By He Jianwei

Sixty-three years ago, an American called Edwin H Land took a photo for his family members as they had their holiday in the Grand Canyon National Park. He told his three-year-old daughter she could see the picture about one week later. The daughter asked why she could not see the picture immediately. Edwin was inspired by this and created a system of one-step photography, which he first demonstrated at a meeting of the Optical Society of America in February 1947. He named the magic camera 'Polaroid'.

The innovative technology of photography has attracted a great many photo addicts, including landscape photographer Ansel Adams, American pop-artist Andy Warhol, German pho-

tographer Helmut Newton, French photographer Sarah Moon, and Russian director Andrei Tarkovski. Polaroid, or 'Pola' has become a threshold into the world of photography for ordinary people as well.

Sixty-three years later, in the age of the digital camera, Polaroid seems antique and outdated. However, Polaroid has become more and more popular among young people. Compared with lomo (short for lomographic photography), which is a trend in young Chinese in these three years, Pola makes people.

Pola has become a cult gadget in Hong Kong, Guangzhou, and Shanghai, and more and more young people in Beijing are falling in love with it.

"[Pola addicts] are usually very creative and highly experimental."—Josh Chen, a Pola addict in Beijing

Josh Chen, 26, a conference interpreter, is a Pola addict in Beijing. "I got to know about Polaroid a number of years ago. However, it was not until last year that I started to develop an interest in it, when I bought my first Polaroid camera, which is a 636 Close-up, in June 2005," said Josh.

Josh can't explain why he loves Pola. "If I have to give a reason, however, I would say because it's unique," he said.

He has a lot of friends who love Pola too. "They are usually very creative and highly experimental."

Josh is quite familiar with the Polaroid camera. "I used to think the camera might be very expensive. True. Some Polaroid models, like the SLR 690, are very expensive, but others are actually quite cheap," he said.

"Pola is just a tool, which can not change my attitude to life."—Li Mengxia, Managing Director-Beijing & Deputy General Manager-Beijing at Modern Media.

Li Mengxia, 30, is Managing Director-Beijing & Deputy General Manager-Beijing at Modern Media. "Two years ago I bought my first Pola for my birthday. Many of my friends are narcissists and they like to show themselves, so the party that night was all about image. My photographic works were projected onto the screen one by one," Li said.

"The first Pola photo? As soon as I got my Pola, I pressed the shutter towards my feet," Li said.

On one hand, Li is a passionate and sensitive man. "Pola is rather prompt as you can get the photo the moment you press the shutter. Sometimes I will snap trivial stuff, such as bag, a cigarette or a part of a friend's body. These photos have a scent of mystery, like an opening of a story," Li said.

On the other hand, he says, "Pola is just a tool, which can not change my attitude to life. Without it, I have my pen, my imagination, and my memory."

"We want to hold a Pola exhibition as soon as we have enough good Pola works."

—Yang Dawei, photographer.

Yang Dawei, 24, is a professional photographer. Both he and his girlfriend are Pola addicts. Early this year, he and his girlfriend held a photo exhibition in France, which included some Pola.

"When I was 14, I traveled to Yunnan in my summer vacation. One of our companions had a Pola and I took many photos for the others. So I have used Pola for almost 10 years," said Yang.

"I love Pola, because I enjoy the process of one-step photography," added Yang.

He and his girlfriend expect more for their future of Pola. "We want to hold a Pola exhibition as soon as we have enough good Pola works."

Pola picks

Polaroid for catechumen:



Polaroid izone200
It is suitable for girls who use Pola for the first

time. If you used the Instant Sticky Film, you can stick your photos in the cover of a book, on the wall, or on the surface of your refrigerator.

Price: 80-300 yuan

Fujifilm Checky

It has a nice shape with different colors and use instax Mini film.



Price: 280-400 yuan

SX-70 Rainbow



The catechumen treated it as an antique produced in 1980s, and it has stopped

production. It is the best seller in the history of Polaroid.

Price: 200-500 yuan

Polaroid One700 Ultra/Classic/Pro

It is a new kind of Polaroid with internal flash-light preventing redeye.



Price: 400-800 yuan

Polaroid for veteran:



SX-70 Original Land Camera/Alpha 1

It is a basic one for Polaroid collectors. It was also one of the 50 best

mechanical inventions selected by the magazine PC World in 2005.

Price: 1,200-3,000 yuan

SX-70 680/690

It is the last type in SX-70 and used film 700. The SX-70 690 is hard to buy in the world market.



Price: 2,800-8,000 yuan

SX-70 24 Karat Gold Alpha 1

It is for niche collectors because there are only 1,000 Polaroid gilded with 24 Karat Gold. It was a present sending to Walter-Scheel, the former first



lady of West Germany.

Recommended by Liu Rui, Pola veteran in Beijing.



"Because of lomo, I fell in love with Pola; and because of Pola, I gave up lomo."

—Yu Yitao, founder of www.Polalife.com

Yu Yitao, 21, who goes by the Internet alias 'miniYork', is a designer in Guangzhou. He went to high school in the US and UK. After he quit University as a freshman, Yu created his own brand, 'Simark', with friends.

Yu bought his first Polaroid early August of 2005. "The first time that I fell in love with it was last year when I was in Beijing. I met my friend Lu Yao in the LOMOCHINA.com one-year anniversary party. "He took a Polaroid 1200 with him and we had a lot of fun with it," said Yu. At the end of August 2005, Yu and Lu started www.Polalife.com, which is the biggest and the only website about Pola in China.

Yu was a lomo addict before he started using Pola. "I played lomo before. I think I had my own logic to explain my experience between lomo and pola: because of lomo, I fell in love with Pola; and because of Pola, I gave up lomo," said Yu.

Yu has taken more than 3,000 photos with Pola. He sums up the attitude of Pola as "the spirit of the only existing copy," as each picture taken by Pola is unique.

"Pola has changed my view of life. You can do what you want, but on the other hand you should give serious consideration to your life," Yu said.



To our dear teachers...

By Gan Tian

Here in China, we love our teachers. We love them soooo much, we even dedicated a whole day to them – September 10. As that was last weekend, this is your last chance to get your teacher something really nice (and maybe improve your chances in the next set of exams...)



Cao Cheng and his students

I will be your friend

There are certain teachers who are always treated like friends by their students. Cao Cheng is one of them. As an English teacher in the High School Affiliated to Renmin University, he likes his students. He told me his gifts are from his 'buddies' and 'sisters'.

Dolls

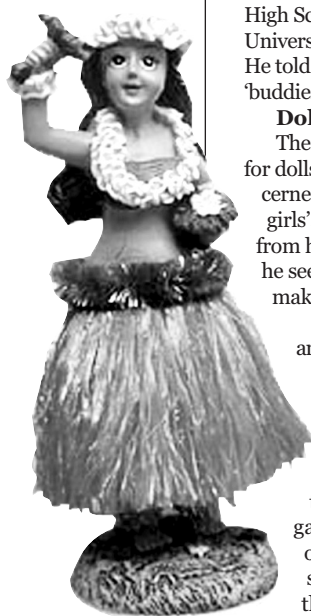
There's a time and a place for dolls, and as far as I'm concerned it's 'childhood' and 'with girls'. But Cao gets them as gifts from his female students, and he seems to like them. I bet he makes them wrestle at night...

Available: supermarkets and high street shops

Price: varies according to size; 50-400 yuan on average

Root sculpture

I like to compare teachers to the tender gardener who takes care of the flowers, so a root sculpture might be something interesting for teachers. This one came from



Hawaii dancing girl



Root Sculpture

a gentle boy in Cao's class. Look at it, the root is in a thinking posture – the way a teacher thinks about his students all the time.

Also Available: Root Sculpture Shop, Beichen Shopping Center, Floor Two, Yayuncun, Chaoyang

Price: 99 yuan

Hawaii dancing girl

Black, healthy skin, a smiling face, a wiggle of the hips, a Hawaii girl! A gift from a student who often travels abroad. They come from America, but they don't forget their teachers. It says every day is brand new, and just adopt a positive attitude towards life – and that's what Cao tells them too.

Available: USA / www.ebay.com / www.taobao.com

Price: about 100 yuan



Hawaii dancing boy



Dolls



Qi Bin

The cute factor

Qi Bin, who teaches English to kids in Daxing No 7 Primary School, said that every student's gift makes her feel great. Cards, whether bought in the shops or made at home, etch her loving students' sentiments in her heart. Ahhhh.

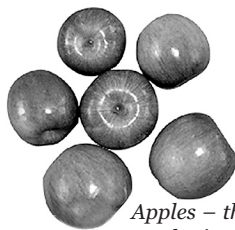
Cards

Cards are common gifts, but you can make something unusual. Write a poem yourself. Paint a portrait of your teacher. Or just make the card yourself.



Flowers

These cards are delicate and special in design – noble but also a little bit cute, just like Qi's students. Qi told me, every time she sees the childish scrawl on the cards, she feels that being a teacher is the best thing in the world. And she won't even criti-



Apples – the classic teacher's gift

cize your spelling, because she's too busy welling up.

Available: Floor Four, Beijing Books Building, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 4-30 yuan

Apple

Ok, it's a cliché. But apples are red, cute, lovely, and sweet – just like the pupils themselves. Go and put an apple on your teacher's desk before class, it'll give them a surprise. Though an apple a day keeps



Card

the doctor away. If you don't like your teacher, best not give them one of these.

Available: every supermarket in Beijing

Price: 1.5-4 yuan per jin (half kilogram)

Carnations

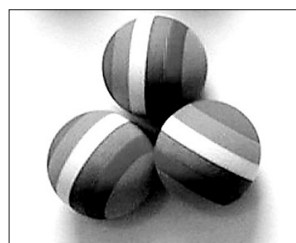
Flowers. Pretty. Bring out your teachers' fair damsel side (from behind the fire breathing dragon).

Available: every flower shop
Price: 20 yuan per bunch

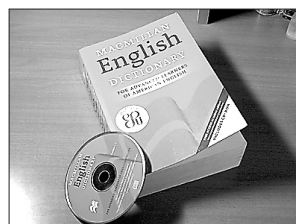


Sun Ya and his student

Students are my soul mates



Watermelon Pills



Macmillan English Dictionary

Sun Ya, calling himself Sawyer, teaches Advanced English and Interpretation to senior English majors in Beijing Forestry University. He would rather call his students soul mates, as they are so considerate.

Dictionary

This is the best gift for an English teacher. As you know, every English teacher has a habit of collecting dictionaries. So does Sun. He admitted, "This Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners is really the best gift I've ever had in my life! My student knew me so well!"

Available: Foreign Language Bookstore, opposite to Beijing Foreign Studies University, Haidian

Price: 178 yuan (plus a disc)

Watermelon Pills

These pills are colorful, cute, lovely, and most important, effective. Teachers are always speaking (Sun often has to shout to more than 100 people in a big classroom), so they often suffer soar throats. The considerate students often put a box of Watermelon Pills on Sun's desk. He sucks, so he won't suck.

Available: Most drugstores in the city

Price: 1.8 yuan

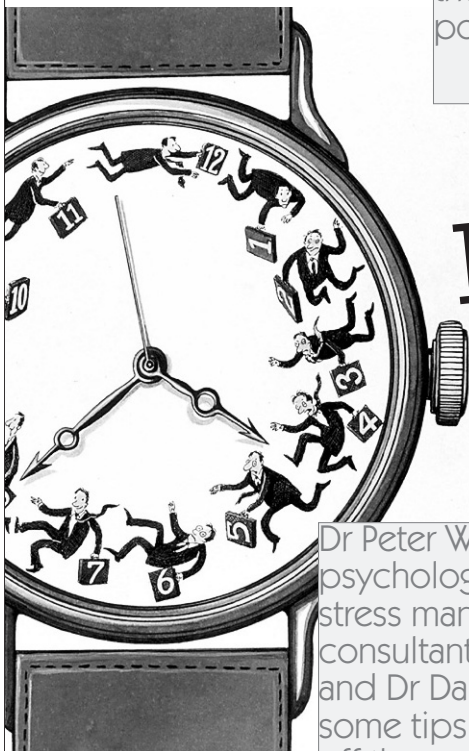
By Qiu Jiaoning

Summer vacation is finally over and it's back to the regular routine for most of us. Feeling blue, when starting the transition from vacation mode to everyday life, is not unusual. This phenomenon has even been given a name: the dourly descriptive 'Post-Vacation Blues'. For many people, returning to work after a vacation is stressful. It can be so stressful that many people start to feel their anxiety levels rise even before the vacation is over.

"Returning to work after vacation is like going to the dentist after you have avoided it for five years," says Dr Dan Baker, a psychologist and author of *What Happy Companies Know*. Dr Baker says that some of the common symptoms of post-vacation blues are increased irritability, a hair-trigger temper and a lack of concentration.

Elaine Poncelet, a clinical therapist explains the post-vacation blues:

"On vacation, we usually get enough sleep, we take it as slow or as fast as we want, and typically do things that we enjoy. But when we arrive home, we suddenly have to switch gears and again take on the responsibilities of work, family and home. On vacation, we escape from our daily rituals, and take a break from our busy lifestyles. Upon return, we surrender this flexibility and a great deal of control to the demands of every day life. Going back to work can sometimes be a tough transition. This is primarily because the workplace is the antithesis of a vacation."



Back from holidays... back to work

Dr Peter Wish, a psychologist and stress management consultant from the US and Dr Dan Baker offer some tips for fending off those pesky PVBs:

D. Keith Robinson's personal experience about how to deal with email efficiently after a vacation:

Plan your re-entry. "You have to prepare to come back from vacation the same way you prepare to go on vacation. Don't schedule tight airline connections – you don't want to worry about rushing between planes, or missing a plane. Don't get back home at midnight on a Sunday to go back to work on Monday. Get back earlier, maybe Sunday morning."

Don't go back to the routine. "Plan something fun when you get back. Don't go right back into your usual routine. Maybe go out to a restaurant for dinner instead of cooking. Go out to a movie. Get a massage or a manicure. Have something to look forward to, don't make the transition so abrupt."

You need stress breaks. "When you return to work after your vacation, insert a 10-minute stress break into your calendar each day for at least three weeks. Use this time to relax and minimize stress."

Stay active. "I know it can be hard to get back into your workout or whatever you do for exercise. You're tired, feeling overwhelmed, etc. But you need to get back into that if it's something you do because if you don't, you may have a hard time getting back to it at all."

Return to your regular sleeping pattern. "Try to get into a regular sleeping pattern as soon as you can. This is really hard, but the sooner you can force yourself into regular hours, the quicker you will adjust."

Create hope. "Start planning your next vacation right away. Planning a vacation often is almost as much fun as taking one, and can help provide a light at the end of the tunnel."

"When I did sit down to go through e-mails, I started by deleting spam and things I didn't need to deal with."

"Then I created a few temporary folders to help me sort my e-mails. I made two folders; 'personal' and 'work' and in each of those I made three folders; 'Monday', 'Tuesday' and 'Wednesday'. I went through my emails and sorted most of these into those folders as quickly as I could. Of course I found a few that I dealt with right then, either because they were important or easy. This took about an hour and a half, but my inbox was empty before I even got started really dealing with it. This took some stress off right then because I would not have to worry about mail coming in and getting mixed up with stuff I'd not processed."

"I then scheduled some time (with reminders) to sort and later respond to my email. I knew I'd have other work to do, so I stuck pretty strictly to those times. Of course, new mail was coming in the whole time. This let me respond to the new messages right away, something that many people who contacted me were impressed with."

Help your kids transition from summer to school

By Huang Daohen

"Will other kids like me?" "Will my teacher be nice?" Butterflies dance in most kids' stomachs at the mere thought of starting school. If you have children heading back to school now or in the coming weeks, it's time to get ready.

1. Get ready early

Ease the back-to-school anxiety by being prepared. Help your child lay out their clothes and pack their backpack the night before. Remember to pack a healthy lunch and a snack that your child can open and eat on their own.

2. Sleep

Sleep is the big one. If you're like most parents, you let bedtimes slide a bit over the summer. Or, you let them slide a lot. They may stay up to watch TV and play video games. These are delightful but seriously habit-forming activities.

3. Reading

At the same time they're breaking the TV habit, children need to form or re-form a different one: reading. Children who haven't touched anything with a cover and pages since June 1 are often surprised to discover that reading is actually fun. A good way to get back into reading is to have someone read to you, preferably a thrilling, must-hear and can't-put-down story. So, take time to read to your child every night.

Comments from parents
Jeff Carlson, teacher, from University of Science and Technology, Beijing

"I really don't agree. It is almost painful for kids to have things, and then have them taken away for seemingly no reason."

With these things taken away, it just makes the transition to school more difficult. Tell them that they should start going to sleep earlier, and if they don't and are tired the first day of school, say "see? I told you you should've started sleeping earlier!" Boom, life lesson learned."

Kathleen Newman, secretary, from Cote d'Ivoire Embassy

"My children are seven and five, even during the summer they still go to bed between 8-9pm during the week. On Fridays and Saturdays I allow them to stay up till maybe 10pm or when the movie they are watching is over. Now that school is starting they will probably be in bed by 7:30pm, hopefully, but no later than 8pm. I allow my kids to read for a half hour before they go to sleep. I find by doing this it continues to increase their reading ability."

Comments from kids
Gary Carlson, student, from Canadian International School of Beijing

"Look! I start eighth grade this coming Monday. And I still cannot sleep until at least 11pm. That is because all of the good shows are later. I just want to say if you want kids to sleep earlier and go back to their original schedule, then all of the good shows should be played during a time that is suitable for kids."

Wan Nan, student, from Beijing No.55 Middle School

"I would have to agree. My parents always started about two weeks before school to get us back in a routine. I plan on doing the same for my kids when I have them."

Linzhi, at the east of Tibet, is called 'the Switzerland of the east.' Although it's located at Tibetan Plateau, Linzhi sits at just 2,900 meters above sea level. The climate is mild: warm in winter and cool in summer.

Linzhi means the 'Throne of Sun' in the Tibetan language. The indigenous zoology is well-protected here. Many rare plants grow here and many birds and animals make their home here. Many visitors come just to see the famous Big Bend Gorge of Yalu Tsangpo.



The beautiful Niyang River running through Linzhi Plateau.

CFP Photos

Linzhi – virgin wildlife

Basongcuo Lake

This is also called *Cuogao* Lake. *Cuogao* means 'green water' in the Tibetan language. The lake is like a crescent wrapped around the gorges. The water of the lake is clear. White cranes and ducks paddle and fish swim in the water.

On Zhaxi Island in the center of the lake, there is a temple built in the late Tang Dynasty (618-907AD). All the stones on the island were carved into animal shapes and Buddhas. The monks in the temple keep in touch with the world by boat. The distance between the temple and the bank is only about 50 meters.

Visitors can also visit the island by boat (two yuan per person).

To the north of the lake, there is a stone about five square meters across with a hole in the center. The hole is big enough for a person to get through. It is said that getting through the hole might help people keep their distance from disasters and illness.

Autumn is the best time to visit Basongcuo Lake, with gold and red leaves decorating the lakeside.

Location: Basongcuo Lake is in the gorge upriver of Ba River, more than 50 kilometers away from Gongbujangda County. There are coaches from Lhasa or

Bayi Town, the political, economical and cultural center of Linzhi.

Admission: 20 yuan / person

Motuo Nature Reservation

Motuo Nature Reservation is in the Big Bend Gorge of Yalu Tsangpo. *Motuo* means 'flower' in the Tibetan language. *Motuo* Natural Reserve is beautiful and with abundant tropical plants.

Motuo Nature Reservation covers 460,000 hectares. Except for a plateau at more than 4,000-meters, the reserve is covered with forest. The park is full of plants and animals: rare, wild and beautiful.

Location: In *Motuo* County,

at the southern border of China. You need a border entry permit for the reserve. You can go to the office in Bayi Town for the permission card, which will cost you 70 yuan. They are open Monday to Friday.

Yigong Tea Garden

Yigong Tea Garden, built in 1987, is in *Yigong* Village in Bomi County. The name *Yigong* means 'beautiful' in the Tibetan language. Although *Yigong* Village is in a remote area among mountains, there are rows of houses built of black bricks and tiles. The building which once housed the Communist Party School of Tibet

Autonomous Region is now the famous tea garden.

Lines of tea ridge in the garden, stretching in all directions. Tea-picking girls work among the ridges. The tea grown here is named *Zhufengshengcha*, which means the holy tea at *Jo-mo glang-ma* Peak. The tea garden is beside *Yigong* Lake, east of the Himalayas. Plenty of sunshine, clean air, proper soil and melting snow have provided the tea an environment conducive to growth.

Location: In *Yigong* Village in Bomi County, 175 kilometers away from Bayi Town.



Tibetan farmers outside their home



Tibetans pose for the camera.



Pilgrims prostrate in front of a temple.



Forests in the Lulang Valley

How to get to Linzhi:

Most people go to Bayi Town first if they visit Linzhi. A coach leaves Lhasa every morning. Ticket prices range from 120 to 136 yuan. It takes 10 hours. Or you can go there by jeep at the Second Military

District Rest House (Di'er Junqu Zhaodai Suo). 200 yuan/person. It takes seven hours.

Food:

Traditional Tibetan food goes down well here, like highland-barley wine, *ciba* and ghee tea. The

local minority food is also popular. The *Luoba* minority has two special wines, white wine and yellow wine made of corn and the bones of chicks' feet and brewed in calabashes. A meal is made of rice and corn. They put rice into bamboo can-

isters and eat it with their hands.

Accommodation:

Linzhi Hotel
Where: No.25, Chuanzang Road, Bayi Town, Linzhi, Tibet
Tel: 0894-582 1300
Yingbin Hotel

Where: No.12, Zhuhai Road, Bayi Town, Linzhi, Tibet
Tel: 0894-582 2410

(By Jackie Zhang)



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Evergreen and cool with lush tropical trees, shady parks and beautiful lakes, Yangon, capital of Myanmar, has earned the name of the 'Garden City of the East'. This is a simple city without skyscrapers and fast life, covering about 350 square kilometers and has a population of over five million.

Yangon – garden city of the east

Shwedagon Pagoda

Towering almost 100 meters above the green city-scope of Yangon, the luminous Shwedagon Pagoda is a landmark visible from miles away.

The exact age of Shwedagon Pagoda is unknown. But it is believed to have been built more than 2,500 years ago.

Long before that, its location on Singuttara hill was already an ancient sacred site because of the buried relics of the three previous Buddhas. According to legend, nearly 5,000 years had passed since the last Buddha walked the Earth, and Singuttara hill would soon lose its blessedness unless it was reconsecrated with relics of a new Buddha. In order that such new relics might be obtained, King Okkalapa spent much time atop the hill, meditating and praying. A series of miracles ensued and eight hairs of the historical Buddha were, somewhat magically, brought to the hill. To enshrine the relics, multiple pagodas of silver, tin, copper, lead, marble, iron and gold were built one on top of the other to a height of 20 meters.

During the following centuries, passing from myth to historical fact, the pagoda grew to its present height of 98 meters. Much of the continued construction of Shwedagon was actually reconstructed following disastrous earthquakes. During the 17th century the pagoda suffered earthquake damage on at least eight occasions. A particularly bad quake in 1786 brought the entire top half of the pagoda to the ground and its current shape and height date from the reconstruction of that tie.

Surrounding the pagoda are many smaller shrines housing pre-Buddhist spirits called Nats, miracle working images, and even a wish granting stone. The entire temple complex radiates a palpable sense of beauty and serenity.

Where: No.1, Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Dagon Township
Open: Daily from 4am to 10pm
Admission: US\$5 (40 yuan)

Twante Town

Twante is a small town noted



Resting Buddha at Chauk Htat Gyi Pagoda

History

The settlement in Yangon first came into prominence in the mid-1750s when King Alaungpaya, founder of the last dynasty of Burmese kings, chose the site as the administrative capital of Lower Myanmar.

Yangon began to develop as a modern community in the late 19th century after coming under British rule at the conclusion of the Second Anglo-Burmese War in 1852. When Myanmar achieved independence in 1948, Yangon became the capital.

How to get to Yangon

Yangon International Airport and Mandalay International Airport are the main gateways of Myanmar and there are direct air-links connecting Yangon with Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, India, China, Qatar and Bhutan. Yangon International Airport is at the north part of the city.

(By Jackie Zhang)



Red Cow bus



Burmese fastfood at Bogyoke Market

for its pottery and cotton-weaving. The pottery industry supplies much of the delta region with well-designed, utilitarian containment of varying shapes and sizes. There are pots for cooking, holding water, growing plants and flowers, burning incense or for use in offerings.

Ready-to-be-molded clay is brought from nearby villages. It is then worked into a certain consistency. Men work in pairs to fashion the clay by hand into various shapes and sizes. One does the spinning, the other the moulding. The completed object is left to dry before it is ready for firing. If you take a stroll to the canal you'll see it lined with pots waiting to be distributed.

Getting there: You can take ferries crossing the Yangon River to Dallah, a town on the opposite bank of the Yangon River, and then travel to Twante. The trip usually lasts 45 minutes. If you go by land, you will encounter vast paddy fields, the occasional rice mill and a pagoda or two rising from the hillock amidst the fields.

Kandawgyi Lake

Kandawgyi Lake, also known as the Royal Lake, is surrounded by verdant parks, and a boardwalk snakes around the edges of the water. The park is very popular with local residents, especially in the early morning and around sunset.

The north shore of the lake has extensive parks, including an exotic plant market, tea stalls and playgrounds. The most distinctive feature on the lake is the Karaweik Restaurant, on the east end of the lake. The huge brick and concrete structure is built to look like Burmese royal barge. The interior is reportedly as sumptuous as the exterior.

Where: Right in the middle of Yangon, just north of the city center and east of the Shwedagon Pagoda

Admission: US\$1 (8 yuan)

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Low angle view of Shwedagon Pagoda

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TUI
China

China Radio International: Speak to the world!



By Han Manman

They all have a very good sense of responsibility and are hard workers – characteristics we look for in all our employees.

However, they are all new to radio broadcasting. If they want to go further they will need to work even harder than they do at the moment, as news is very serious and even the smallest mistake can have huge consequences. We hope they continue to work hard at their internship so they can progress in the future.

—Li Dayong: Vice director of the sports department at the CRI news center

I had heard of CRI when I was a middle school student. The western music programme made an impression on me. From that time on, I wanted to work at CRI.

I was assigned to the CRI Sports department in the summer semester of 2004, when I was still an undergraduate. I joined the home front reporting team to report on the European Football Championships and the Athens Olympic Games. Those valuable experiences qualified me for my particular job. Although work as a journalist can be exhausting, I still love my job. At CRI, everyday is a challenge. But I enjoy it, that's the way I live.

I didn't feel nervous at all when I walked into the recruitment examination hall. I just regarded the recruitment exam as a game. As a student I always hated exams and usually didn't get high grades. But in this, I succeeded. My boss recently told me that my previous internship experience was the reason he took me on as an intern. Of course, he had talked to my colleagues at the company where I had had my previous

internship. In their opinion, I was an honest, hardworking and responsible person. So personal character obviously played a big role in CRI finally giving me offer.

My advice to students would be, practice makes perfect. You also need to trust yourself. Also, try not to worry too much about the outcome of a task. When you are asked to do an arduous task don't hesitate a minute, just find a way to do it. Clyde Drexler, a formal NBA superstar used to say: "Playing ball is just like life, winning isn't everything. When you face a challenge, you need to have the courage to stand up and shout out, 'it's my turn!'" Treat every challenge as an opportunity, fight it and control it.

Comments from Li Dayong: Lin Chen is a very clever boy and is very perceptive. He is good at writing and editing English news quickly and with few mistakes. Lin is very professional and has a good understanding of sport. These points all mean that he is well qualified to do international sport news.

Lin Chen did an internship in our sports department when he was an undergraduate. He left a very good impression on all his colleagues. We

offered him a full-time job, not just because of his strengths and skills but also because of his personality. He is very frank and passionate and everyone likes him. During the World Cup in Germany, Lin once managed to finish both the football write up and man of the match write up in time for the deadline. When he was transferred to the Olympic broadcasting program, he quickly got to grips with all of the programming procedures.

Lin Chen graduated from Hunan University last year, majoring in media operations and management. He started his internship at CRI's sports department in 2004. After graduating, he was employed full-time at CRI Olympic Radio in the CRI sports department.



Li Yingbo got a Master's degree from the Communication University of China, majoring in international journalism. She started her internship last December and will get a full-time job offer from CRI TV center in the next few months.

When I first walked into the CRI front hall, I felt nervous but also excited. I knew I would have a new start here. I did an internship at a newspaper before I applied for the CRI job. As I knew I had little chance of getting an offer from that newspaper, I decided to look for jobs elsewhere. I knew I wanted to work in media but had to decide between newspaper, radio or TV. I applied for the internship at CRI because I had majored in international journalism and the international news editor work I applied for matched with my major. I also liked the idea of working at CRI because it's a state owned media organization that has more power and a larger audience than any newspaper. At CRI there are also lots of different possibilities for future development. During my internship, the experienced editors taught me a lot and my colleagues helped me too.

As I am quite shy compared with many people in the media industry, I thought I would be more suited to the job of editing the news rather than making it.

Unlike being a student, work gives me a sense of responsibility. I was impressed with myself when, one day, I got a fever and felt shaky but insisted on continuing to work and doing all the jobs I would usually do. If I had been in school, I know I would have asked for sick leave.

I will always remember the exciting moment when I was asked to come in for a writing exam and interview. I told myself that it was a golden opportunity and that I must grasp it.

Working for a radio program requires that you have a good team spirit. Everyone in the team has to do his or her bit before the program is aired. That's one of the main things I love about this job.

Comments from Jin Li, director of CRI TV center: Li Yingbo has a good understanding of news and has become one of the key members of staff in our TV department. During her internship, it wasn't long before she was doing editing work. Her boss praised her work. She also has a great personality and gets on well with her colleagues.



Dang Tongtong graduated from the Communication University of China, majoring in English broadcasting and anchoring. She started her internship last March and has been working full-time at the Olympic Radio Department since October.

There is a saying among basketball fans: "I love this game!" And that's what I am going to say. China Radio International is one of the most authoritative broadcasting stations in China and abroad. I wanted to work here because it's a fantastic platform for anyone pursuing a career in the media.

I still remember that one day I was asked to join a live broadcast of a sports column, to be one of the three hosts. I was so nervous that day, very, very nervous. I couldn't help trembling and that

affected my voice. I just remembered that I didn't utter more than 50 words that day and for most of the time I stayed silent. Time went by second by second, I quietly finished my first live broadcast and I didn't think it was for me. I still remember that experience and one day, when I am mature enough to sit down at the microphone I will remind myself of my first live broadcast and remember how important it was. The huge CRI building is very beautiful but also very functional. People here look kind; they are graceful, wise and knowledgeable. All in all, I love this place. Our department requires that you are gifted, hard working, diligent,

willing to learn and also humble. I think it's important that you're enthusiastic about your work and, at CRI, have a good understanding of sport.

I wasn't the brightest among CRI's applicants, but I work hard and I enjoy learning new things. I think my good grasp of English also played a big part in me getting a job.

I cannot emphasize how important teamwork is in this environment. Without the cooperation of others, you won't be able to achieve anything. Try to understand others, and learn to forgive their mistakes. My advice for students would be, believe in yourself and learn what your strengths are. Work hard and never give up.

Comments from Li Dayong: Tongtong has a very good voice, which is obviously extremely important for a broadcaster. She majored in English broadcasting and therefore has a good command of English. Although she has only recently graduated and lacks knowledge of sports, she is diligent and has great potential to be a good sports broadcaster. Tongtong

started her internship in our global news department and I just happened to hear one of her broadcasts by chance. I felt that her voice has its own character. From observing her during her internship, I saw that she was well suited to the role of radio broadcaster. In the long term I have every confidence that Tongtong will become an excellent radio broadcaster.

Follow Beijing Today
This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

The flying dream



Xu Jia is a student at Beijing Jiao Tong University.

By Xu Jia

Ladies and gentlemen,
Plane is greatest invention in my eyes.

A prominent Indian poet Tagore once said, "The birds have gone away, leaving no marks there. But it planted the seeds of our dream." A Chinese song called "the girl shaking the wings" sings "believe me I can fly .I'm singing in the sky." This is the flying dream of human beings. And what realizes the dream? Doubtlessly, it is the aero plane --the greatest invention in my eyes.

The flying dream can be traced back long time ago. In the ancient China, an outstanding carpenter

carved a wooden bird. Though it only hovered in the sky for a few minutes, the flying dream continued. From the flying kite to the hot air balloon, to the glider, tens of thousands of pioneers endured the doubt and criticism of authorities and dedicated themselves to the holly plane industry. In 1903, the two American brothers brought in the first powered plane. From then on, the plane entered the modern world and spread its influence on every aspect. It boasts its convenience, fast speed and safety. Numerous traditional traffic means are dwarfed by the plane and in a sense, the plane ranks as the first choice to travel. What is more?

Stimulated by the development of the hi-tech knowledge, the plane is promoting itself and its alike: the Apollo is the proud of America, of the world, of the whole human beings; our Shen Zhou V space shuttle launches a new epoch of the plane industry. Space station will surely benefit people a lot.

After taking a brief account of the plane history, what do the plane and the flying dream signify? Broadly speaking, it symbolizes the invention power of human is unlimited and people can challenge the impossible and the undiscovered. People dare to dream, dare to seek for the desire of curiosity. Neces-

sity is the mother of invention, so people invented the plane beyond our imagination .So we believe one day, we will become the inhabitants of the moon or other stars, because in spite the hardship, the endless endeavor of generations, we still hold fast to the flying dream. We will explore the further space, of our university, of our knowledge and of our ability...

You may say I am a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. Many dreamers struggle for the same flying dream. Why? Just as the late American President John Kennedy once put it in an inspiring way: "If we can dream it, we can do it!"



Kirk Kenny replies



Kirk Kenny is an English teacher at New Channel school.

To begin with, your title is ambiguous and misleading. 'The flying dream,' it implies that it is a dream about flying. To make yourself clearer you could say something like: 'Flying: Humanity's Dream.' Notice also that your title should be capitalized.

Your opening sentence is a good example. Here, you should say "Planes...are" or you could say "The airplane...is." But even still, this sentence seems a bit out of place - it needs to be expanded on. There isn't really a smooth connection with the content below and the result is that it lacks logic. You go from a statement about planes to quoting a writer from India. As well, pay attention to punctuation: when you introduce the poet, put a comma (,) before and after his name. In the following line, instead of asking, "what realizes this dream?" you should write, "what makes this dream possible?" As well, we don't generally say, "doubtlessly;" we say "without doubt."

In the next paragraph, and throughout the rest of the speech, you should say "man's dream to fly" instead of the "the flying dream," for the reason I mentioned above. This particular instance also needs to be changed so that it reads, "Man's dream to fly has existed for a long time." You needn't say "the ancient China;"

just say, "ancient China." When talking about countries or places we generally don't say "the." Also, when referring to something in general, we usually use the plural: kites, balloons, gliders etc. In the line following, you misspelled the word "holy" - "holly." But more importantly, we wouldn't refer to an industry as "holy" in English as we might in Chinese. Instead, you might refer to it as "key," "vital," or "critical." You can get rid of "the" when you say, "the two American brothers," as I'm sure there are not ONLY two brothers in America. Instead of "brought in," perhaps a better word would be "experimented with" or "created." As for your sentence: "and spread its influence on every aspect" it should read "and its influence on every aspect of our lives has been felt ever since." In the following line, you needn't say "It boasts

its convenience;" simply write: "it boasts convenience..." Your sentence about "the plane is promoting itself" is totally vague and impossible to decipher and you'd be best to get rid of it. Next, you should say, "Apollo is the pride of America," Remember, 'pride' is a noun and 'proud' an adjective. When you say 'our' you are probably referring to China, but from the grammar it is not clear, so you'd better say, "China's Shen Zhou space shuttle...launched (past tense).

In the next big paragraph, change "the plane history" to "aviation history" or "the history of planes." In your next line, "invention power" is purely translated from Chinese and sounds too much like a slogan. A more natural way of expressing this idea might be to say, "it symbolizes human innovation."

Following, you say that, "we believe...we will become the inhabitants of the moon and stars." It is unclear who "we" refers to - Chinese people - the whole world? Secondly, you probably don't speak for everyone; so again, you'd be better to point out that it's your personal view or hope. As well, you should say, "explore space further" rather than "explore the further space" and I believe you mean "universe" instead of "university." Your next line, "You may say I'm a dreamer..." comes from a famous song by John Lennon and you should give him credit for it if you want to use it. You might write, "As the great singer and songwriter John Lennon once wrote..." But again, you have already referred to so many people's ideas, as you do in the very final line as well, that it seems you don't have your own, and that is a weakness found in many student's speech's. As well, you'd be better to try and develop a clearer and more logical structure. The way to do that is to plan out several, maybe two or three key ideas, and then explain and expand them. That kind of structure, combined with the grammatical corrections I pointed out here, will make your speech easier to grasp and eventually more convincing.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see any chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Teahouse's chinglish tragedy



Photo by Guo Qian

By Philip Space

Qing Xiu Teahouse

Provides many kinds of tea and many kinds snack your patronage is cordially invited.

This sign was spotted outside a teahouse catering for tourists in Beijing. The English starts off ok but gets confused towards the end as over complicated and rarely used words, like 'patronage' and 'cordially' are bought into play. A string of basic grammatical errors only add to the confusion. There should be an 'of' between 'kinds' and 'snack' and an 's' at the end of 'snack' as it is referring to more than one thing. The sign would be better re-written as follows: 'Enjoy a range of different teas and snacks at Qing Xiu Teahouse.'

A menu without meaning



Photo by Liu Xiaowen

By Philip Space

Sauteed shredded pork with Beijing...

Sweet and vinegar steued pork

The most obvious mistakes that litter this menu board are basic spelling mistakes. In the first line, 'Sauteed shredded pork with Beijing...', the restaurant owners presumably mean 'shredded pork'. The second line 'Sweet and vinegar steued pork', should be re-written, 'sweet and sour steued pork'. If the owners of this Beijing eatery had just checked their dictionary, their menu would have made a lot more sense.

Friday, September 15

Exhibition Heart, Passion, Color – A group exhibition by 50 artists



Where: New Art Center, No 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng
When: Daily 9:30am-6pm, until September 20
Admission: Free
Tel: 6528 9103

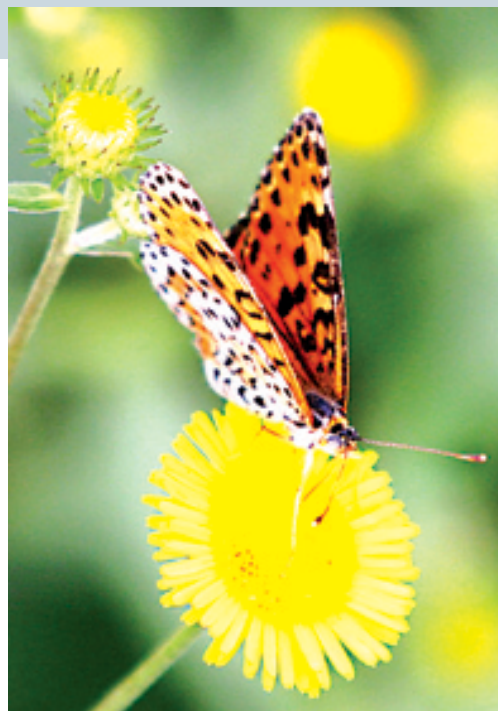
JC Nourisson & C Maugeais
Artists Jean Claude Nourisson and Claire Maugeais bring French installation art to China.
Where: Imagine Gallery, Fei-

jiacun Donglu, Cuigezhuang, Lai-guangying Donglu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-6pm, until October 15
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 5747

Movie Becoming American: The Chinese Experience



An epic history of Chinese immigration to the United States. In every immigrant group, each



generation finds a balance between the values and practices of its heritage, and the mores of its adopted country. A famous team of filmmakers explores this dramatic portion of America's history and confronts myths about the Chinese in America that have flourished in the void.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Inside Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang
When: 8pm, until September 16
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 13901134745

Music Gertrud

Marie Wenneberg fronts this five-piece multinational jazz group.
Where: Stone Boat Cafe, Southwest corner of Ritan Park, Chaoyang
When: 9:30pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6501 9986

Saturday, September 16

Exhibition Group Exhibition of Female Artists

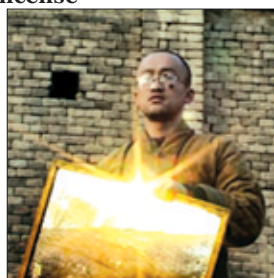


Where: Two Line Gallery, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-5:30pm, until October 10
Admission: Free
Tel: 13910118792

Xia Xiaowan Solo Exhibition

Where: Galerie Urs Meile, No 104 Caoshangdi Village, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-6:30pm, until October 14
Admission: Free
Tel: 136 9324 3494

Movie Incense



The story of how a village monk tries to get hold of 3,000 yuan to reconstruct a statue in a

temple. Directed by Ning Hao.

Where: Hart Center of Arts, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6435 3570

Outdoor Chuandixia Village Tour

Where: Chuandixia Village, nestled in the mountains in Mentougou District of Beijing, is renowned for its well-preserved courtyard houses dating back to the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

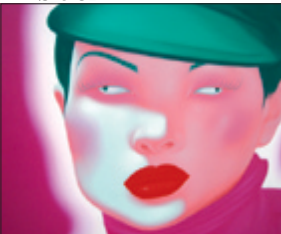
When: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (CCC) at 8:30am Saturday and return to CCC at 6:30pm.

Cost: 250 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041



Sunday, September 17

Exhibition Feng Zhengjie Solo Exhibition



Where: Xin Dong Cheng Space, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-5pm, until October 31
Admission: Free
Tel: 6433 4579

Re-excavate Contemporary Realism

Where: Soka Art center, B-103, Sky&Sea Business Plaza, No 107 Dongsid Beidajie, Dongcheng
When: Tue-Sun 10am-9pm, until October 14
Admission: Free
Tel: 8401 2377

Movie Jules and Jim

One of Francois Truffaut's best-loved films starts with the meeting in 1912 of Jules and Jim and charts the close lifelong friendship that develops between them.

Where: French Culture Center,

18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.

When: 6pm, until September 20
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



Outdoor Silver Fox Cave Tour

Where: A trip with Beijing Amblers to see the 4,500m long karst cave in Xiayingshui Village, Fangshan District, 68 kilometers away from Beijing. Boat riding is involved in one section of the cave, and 102 meters of steps will be climbed to the exit. Some parts of the cave are as deep as 106 meters below ground level.

When: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (CCC) at 9:30am Sunday and return to CCC at 5pm.
Cost: 250 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041



Stage in October

Dance

Russian Cossack State Dance Company's debut in Beijing

Who: Russian Cossack State Dance Company
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, October 1-2

Opera

Così fan tutte, Opera Buffa in Two Acts

Who: Piccolo Teatro di Milano
Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street,

Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 8-9

Nose, Opera in Three Acts

Who: Century Theater
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, October 13

La Traviata, Opera in Three Acts

Who: Teatro la Fenice
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, October 29

Music

Grand opening of the 9th Beijing Music Festival

Who: Mariinsky Orchestra with Valery Gergiev
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, October 2-3

Maurizio Pollini Piano Recital

Who: Famous Italian Pianist Maurizio Pollini
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street,

Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 4

A Night of Russian Music

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
When: 7:30pm, October 6

Dmitri Shostakovich Song Cycle

Who: Dmitri Shostakovich
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, October 10

Paul Badura-Skoda Recital

Who: Paul Badura-Skoda
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang
When: 7:30pm, October 15

BBC Symphony Orchestra Concert

Who: BBC Symphony Orchestra
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
When: 7:30pm, October 24-25

(By Qiu Jiaoning)